OBSERVATIONS

ON A

TOUR

THROUGH ALMOST THE WHOLE OF ENGLAND, AND A CONSIDERABLE PART OF SCOTLAND,

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS,

Addressed to a large number of intelligent and respectable Friends,

BY

MR. DIBDIN.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

Published by G. Goulding, No. 45, Pall-Mall; John Walker, No. 44, Paternoster-Row; and at the Author's Warehouse, Leicester-Place.

Printed by T. Woodfall, Little Russell-Street, Covent-Garden.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS Book will comprise two large and handsome quarto volumes, embellished with forty views and twenty vignettes. It is, however, published in portions rather than together, on account of the great difficulty in getting forward the various materials it will contain. So much mental and manual labour has rarely, perhaps never, been bestowed by one man on any production. Painting, which had been only my private amusement, out of devotion to the public, I have in this instance made one of my professions, and to those who love truth and strength of expression, I hope I have not tendered the appeal in vain. Beyond this, out of respect to my advice, a novice, as to the schools, but by no means as to genius, comes forward, blushing with apprehension of fancied censure and disapprobation, that nobody knows better than I do are only vizors of the mind, under which she will be sure to discover candour and indulgence. Again, the endless and unexampled variety which I have been three years in collecting, the advice and encouragement of friends, whose names are a powerful guarrantee, and the lively pleasure and laborious care, for which I flatter myself I have been given credit in all my pursuits: these and other self evident considerations seem to render an address of this kind more customary than necessary. I could not resist, however, what I have done, and I also anticipate an indispensible necessity of offering hereafter a close and retrospective view of the work. For the rest, the reader will see in what manner this Book tells its own story, to which the following letter will answer every introductory purpose.

Directions relative to the situations of the plates, and every other necessary instruction will be carefully given.

Leicester-Place.

Nov. 16, 1801.

C. DIBDIN.

PREFATORY HINTS.

A LITERAL adherence to my original plan would not have given this work the diversity by means of which I hope I have been able to keep my readers awake. Mere observations, let their latitude be what it may, require relief as much as mere narrations. I have therefore, as the ground I conceived it necessary to go over embraces so large a space, endeavoured to describe its surface and its productions, as well as what has been or is going on among its inhabitants.

The boundaries of each county, correctly attended to, may serve to give a comprehensive idea of localities and their bearings, to which the history and progress of the rivers will render considerable assistance; the biographical hints will recall to recollection men who have formed the leading features of British celebrity; and the description of botanical productions will be a key at least to those beautiful and profitable objects diffused throughout the garden of nature. The tables of distances will have their utility; and, indeed, upon the best and fullest consideration, I conceived that I could not give the work a more amusing complexion generally, than by uniting in some degree observation with system.

As to the views, they are calculated to convey a fair idea of wide and massy effect, and not a slavish portraiture of national

or provincial peculiarity. The small plates with characters are faithful representations of nature without tameness or caricature; and, if natural partiality, not perhaps altogether blamable in me, has not deceived me, they have a spirit and an originality which cannot be taught but by nature. It will be most becoming that I should leave them to advocate their own merits; and, indeed, a long preface is generally a weak defence; for it could not recommend a work unworthy of perusal; and, if a work embrace all the purposes it professes to contain, recommendation would be unnecessary.

A more difficult task yet remains; so difficult, indeed, that I must have stopped here, if it did not perform itself. My sense and feelings on the solicitude and warmth manifested by my valuable and respectable correspondents cannot by any language be transmitted from my heart to my pen, especially as I have the proud pleasure to boast that their fullest and most complete satisfaction has been unequivocally extended to me. I could very easily expatiate on their individual merits, and I might boldly assert that a more able selection of ingenious and meritorious men never lent consequence to a literary work; but every word I could write would be rendered unnecessary by public anticipation, and that kindness which may be felt but cannot be explained is better honoured by sober and silent admiration than an ostentatious display of words.

CONTENTS.

VOL. I.

Letter		
1	Thomas King, Esq.	Introductory.
2	John Sheldon, Esq.	Introductory.
3	Dr. Cruwys.	Introductory.
4	Thomas Sheldon, Esq.	Kent.
5	Thomas Sheldon, Esq.	Kent.
6	Thomas Sheldon, Esq.	Kent.
7	Thomas Sheldon, Esq.	Roads.
8	Thomas Sheldon, Esq.	Sussex and to London.
9	William Woodfall, Esq.	Tours.
10	John Sheldon, Esq.	Dorsetshire.
11	John Sheldon, Esq.	Dorsetshire.
12	Thomas King, Esq.	Inns.
13	John Sheldon, Esq.	Devonshire
14	John Flaxman, Esq.	Nature *versus* Art.
15	Rev. Mr. Penneck	Cornwall.
16	Rev. Mr. Penneck	Cornwall.
17	William Woodfall, Esq.	Circulating Libraries.
18	G. C. George, Esq.	Cornwall.
19	G. C. George, Esq.	Cornwall.
20	G. C. George, Esq.	Scilly Isles.
21	Thomas King, Esq.	Servants.
22	Dr. Cruwys	Devonshire.
23	Dr. Cruwys	Devonshire.
24	Thomas King, Esq.	Dogs.
25	John Sheldon, Esq.	Somersetshire.
26	William Woodfall, Esq.	The English and the Scotch.
27	Thomas King, Esq.	Hertfordfordshire.
28	Thomas King, Esq.	Bedfordshire.
29	Thomas King, Esq.	Northamptonshire.
30	Thomas King, Esq.	Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Staffordshire.
31	William Woodfall, Esq.	Watering Places.
32	Thomas King, Esq.	Lancashire.
33	William Woodfall, Esq.	Monopoly.
34	Dr. Garnett.	Westmoreland.
35	Mr. Ware.	Cumberland.
36	Thomas King, Esq.	The Poor.
37	Dr. Garnett.	Scotland.
38	Dr. Garnett.	Scotland.
39	Dr. Garnett.	Scotland.
40	Dr. Garnett.	Scotland.
41	Thomas King, Esq.	Boarding Schools.
42	Thomas King, Esq.	Nottinghamshire.
43	Thomas King, Esq.	Lincolnshire.
44	Thomas King, Esq.	Norfolk.
45	Thomas King, Esq.	Suffolk and to London.

VOL. II.

Letter		
46	William Woodfall, Esq.	Retirement.
47	John Sheldon, Esq.	Berkshire.
48	John Sheldon, Esq.	Wiltshire.
49	John Sheldon, Esq.	A Circuit and Sussex.
50	William Woodfall, Esq.	Omens.
51	John Sheldon, Esq.	Essex.
52	John Sheldon, Esq.	Suffolk.
53	John Sheldon, Esq.	Cambridgeshire.
54	John Sheldon, Esq.	Huntingdonshire.
55	William Woo?fall, Esq.	Dialects.
56	Thomas King, Esq.	Leicestershire.
57	Thomas King, Esq.	Derbyshire.
58	Thomas King, Esq.	Lancashire.
59	Dr. Garnett	Westmoreland.
60	Mr. Ware.	Cumberland.
61	William Woodfall, Esq.	Anonymous Letters.
62	Dr. Garnett.	Dumfries and Air.
63	Dr. Garnett.	Glasgow and Loch Lomond.
64	Dr. Garnett.	Stirling and Kinross.
65	Dr. Garnett.	Perth, Dundee, and Kinghorn.
66	Dr. Garnett.	Edinburgh and Kelso.
67	William Woodfall, Esq.	Agriculture.
68	Mr. Ware.	Northumberland.
69	Mr. Ware.	Durham.
70	William Woodfall, Esq.	Quack Medicines.
71	Rev. W. Bingley.	Yorkshire.
72	Rev. W. Bingley.	Yorkshire.
73	Rev. W. Bingley.	Yorkshire.
74	Rev. W. Bingley.	Cheshire.
75	William Woodfall, Esq.	Amusements.
76	Rev. W. Palmer.	Shropshire.
77	Rev. W. Palmer.	Herefordshire.
78	Rev. W. Palmer.	Monmouthshire.
79	Rev. W. Palmer.	Warwickshire.
80	Rev. W. Palmer.	Worcestershire.
81	Rev. W. Palmer.	Gloucestershire.
82	William Woodfall, Esq.	Watering Places.
83	John Sheldon, Esq.	Somersetshire.
84	John Sheldon, Esq.	Hampshire.
85	John Sheldon, Esq.	Surry.
86	John Sheldon, Esq.	Oxfordshire.
87	John Sheldon, Esq.	Buckinghamshire.
88	John Sheldon, Esq.	Middlesex.

DIRECTIONS TO PLACE THE PRINTS.

THERE are some Notes in the course of the Tour, which account for an apparent irregularity in the situation of the Plates. The Bookbinder is requested therefore to place them according to the following Directions; the reason why such changes are made will be explained by the Work itself. The Views are done from Pictures painted by Mr. DIBDIN; the Vignettes are invented, drawn, and put on the copper by Miss DIBDIN, and the aqua-tinta is by Mr. HILL.

Plate.	VIEWS.	P.	V.
1.	Rochester Castle.	26.	1.
2.	Approach to Hastings.	61.	1.
3.	Dartmouth Harbour.	102.	1.
4.	Mount St. Michael.	154.	1.
5.	Penzance Church Yard.	152.	1.
6.	Lostwithiel.	156.	1.
7.	Between Truro and Bodmin.	157.	1.
8.	Ilfracomb.	196.	1.
9.	Coalbrook Dale.	310.	2.
10.	Between Wigan and Preston.	282.	1.
11.	Approach to Lancaster.	283.	1.
12.	Gretna Green.	325.	1.
13.	Approach to Langholm.	326.	1.
14.	Approach to Edinburgh.	328.	1.
15.	Dalnotter Hill.	340.	1.
16.	Loch Lomond.	340.	1.
17.	Marsden, Yorkshire.	355.	1.
18.	Lord Scarsdale's, Derbyshire.	110.	2.
19.	In the way to Matlock	110.	2.
20.	Windermere.	122.	2.
21.	Cascade at Rydal	130.	2.
22.	The Derwent.	139.	2.
23.	Skiddaw.	144.	2.
24.	Lowdore.	142.	2.
25.	Review of the Derwent.	145.	2.
26.	Between Brownhill and Sanquhar	168.	2.
27.	Loch Lomond from Belretiro.	183.	2.
28.	The Ochil Hills.	189.	2.
29.	Castle of Gloom.	189.	2.
30.	Loch Leven.	192.	2.
31.	Another View.	193.	2.
32.	Valley of Stratherne.	197.	2.
33.	Carse of Gowry.	200.	2.
34.	Nearer to Dundee.	201.	2.
35.	The Lomonds.	203.	2.
36.	Edinburgh from Kinghorn.	204.	2.
37.	The Wrekin in Shropshire	313.	2.
38.	Near Bath.	357.	2.
39.	Near Cobham.	379.	2.
40.	Sudbury.	399.	1.

VIGNETTES.

		P.	V.
1.	Children going to School.	80.	1.
2.	Bakers at Plymouth.	107.	1.
3.	Officers at Bowls.	190.	1.
4.	Puppet Shew.	252.	1.
5.	Children Playing.	260.	1.
6.	Peasants in Northumberland.	360.	1.
7.	Scotch Family.	327.	1.
8.	Children going to School.	342.	1.
9.	Boarding School Ladies.	350.	1.
10.	Camberwell Fair.	400.	1.
11.	Children drawing a Car.	11.	2.
12.	Gipsies.	49.	2.
13.	Turnpike Family.	97.	2.
14.	Scotch Preaching.	190.	2.
15.	Public Garden.	356.	2.
16.	Market-place.	374.	2.
17.	A Party at the Isle of Wight.	370.	2.
18.	Harvest Men at Shrewsbury.	312.	2.
19.	Actors going to the Army.	304.	2.
20.	Stage Coach Passengers.	398.	2.

The Plate which describes an improvement of the Western Road, should be placed opposite p. 360. v. 2.

LETTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR AND VALUABLE FRIEND,

It has been long my intention to address a series of letters to particular friends, and other gentlemen of respect and consideration, as a vehicle to possess the public with such observations as have arisen from the great variety of circumstances that have come to my knowledge in the course of three years, during which time I have travelled in ENGLAND and in SCOTLAND, almost five thousand miles.

The solicitude of my friends, as to the mode and manner of my conduct in the prosecution of this work, has been as flattering to my feelings as it has been honorable to my reputation. Every one has testified a warm inclination to be gratified in this particular, and many sincere sentiments of gratitude are due to them all from me for their lively and kind interest in my concerns. To your portion, however, you have a prior right, and it is with peculiar pleasure I take this opportunity of publicly congratulating myself, that I have for five and thirty years had the pleasure and advantage of possessing your advice, your good wishes, and I flatter myself, your friendship; but I am gratifying myself, when my proper business is to inform you and the public.

Every man of an inquisitive spirit, who has strong and flexible intellects, and a disposition to recommend himself by diffusing such information as may afford

pleasure and enforce instruction, will not only communicate entertainment, but go over considerable novelty in any strictures, however loose and familiar, that result from spontaneous fancy and the instant effusions of the mind during a long tour, taken either for pleasure or profit.

Objects are so extremely various, and so incessantly changing, that as every thing relative to manners, either local or general; every thing concerning the face of the country, either as to its universal or particular produce, interests the mind and the feelings, so the mode of conveying the necessary intelligence for such occasions, though evidently tending to the same end, will never be twice alike. Seasons and circumstances vary the aspect of nature astonishingly; going to or returning from the same place, by reversing every object, exhibits a perspective completely different; sunshine and rain, morning and evening, spring and autumn, summer and winter, have all their different lights and shades, their different beauties and deformities.

Thus with very little effort is novelty in the power of every intelligent writer. The selection, however, must be judicious, otherwise the matter will outweigh the interest. The information may spring indeed from any object, though apparently trivial, that can in the smallest degree instruct and delight. The vacant mirth, and the momentary affliction of a cottage have their self importance, and may as worthily exhilerate or depress the heart, as the wit of a drawing-room, or the privation of some fashionable appendage. Trifles are frequently precious. A leaf or a flower are of infinite mental value to a philosopher; but such trifles as cannot bear the test of reflection should be avoided.

A man may as easily tell you how many miles it is from one place to another, the sort of treatment you are likely to meet with, the condition of the roads, and the general conduct of those, to whom the safety and comfort of travellers are entrusted, by accounting generally for abuses, as he can by invidiously pointing out individuals, or giving you perpetual references to tables and lists. Upon this principle, though I mean to let nothing escape me, I shall not enumerate effects, but expatiate on causes; not tire with particulars, but come to generals; not deal out trifles and minutiæ, but embrace system and arcana.

Upon this broad plan, I shall not be so liable to do partial injustice, and I shall be more sure to give general content. Under the influence of immediate prejudice, human nature is too apt to take idea for reality. Things are very often false or true, good or bad, pleasant or unpleasant, by comparison. A peasant prefers his limpid stream, a voluptuary his sparkling champaign. A farmer drives his wife and daughter in a taxed cart to the fair, and a sprig of fashion exhibits his curricle and his favorite in Hyde Park.

The two prominent features of this work will be an independance of mind, and a rigid regard to truth, and these requisites will acquire additional value from the principle by which I mean to diffuse my observations; for my accounts of any given place or province, are not intended so much for the information of residents, as those who live at a distance. It is too frequently a disgrace to letters, that writers of the first eminence cannot withstand that narrow prejudice, through which they libel other countries by extolling their own homes. It was as unworthy in Smollet to quote Edinburgh as the essence of cleanliness, in depreciation of London, as it was in Johnson to villify Scotland as a barren waste, in compliment to England. The strictures of both were founded upon rank and notorious falsehoods.

In all countries there is something to praise, and something to regret. They have an aggregate portion of fertility and barrenness; but as provident nature has made nothing in vain, rational comfort, through the medium of that invention, enforced by necessity, is every where to be found, and the hand of industry can convert almost every object to some utility. Let the advantages and disadvantages then be fairly poised and valued, that by the general judgment one may be converted, and the other improved; so shall emulation succeed to envy, and every man, of what town, province, or kingdom soever, labour to promote the great work of general convenience, and give brighter refinement to the comforts of civilization.

I shall consider it as my duty to encourage this emulation, from which I will not be warped. I will not flatter any place or people, to bespeak favour for myself, nor will I deal out indiscriminate censure at the expence of rectitude. When

I bring to my recollection the prodigious number of beautiful mansions, scattered through the large territory that I have passed over, I shall extol them in proportion as they may be entitled temples consecrated to benevolence, in which task I shall have abundant reason to rejoice that, in spite of that luxury which has invaded us, which is the only foreign invasion we shall ever have cause to dread, and which, if I stick to these principles, it will often be my painful duty to deplore, no art, no sophistry, no innovation can ever eradicate the honest, the vernacular hospitality which grew with the oak, and will ever constitute the noblest character of this country.

When I glance at the immense treasures drawn from our manufactories, which give employment to thousands of the industrious poor, and spread the fame of this envied Isle to the extremity of both the zones; or when I trace the intrepid labours of the miner, who boldly tears from the bowels of the earth that ore, which ingenuity can fashion into so many vessels and ornaments, I shall not be guided by a paltry prejudice, but bestow candid and impartial commendation; whether the merit be owing to the labourer, or the artizan, whether the article be a necessary, or a luxury, and wheresoever the meritorious effort may be atchieved, from PENZANCE to ABERDEEN.

These are the leading features of my design, in the prosecution of which I shall continually illustrate my premises by either immediate or collateral facts, through the medium of anecdotes. It is always an advantageous thing to let a man tell his own story. One strong local fact will give a truer idea of particular manners than a thousand conjectural opinions, and while I am upon this subject I shall take an opportunity, and it will be once for all, of noticing how fond men are of deluding themselves out of their pleasure, by affecting to disrelish every thing but what they fancy new and original, whereas, were this the case, the whole jut and effect of the fact would be destroyed. The very meaning of telling a story or relating an anecdote, is to repeat, and this is so closely the truth, that were every thing but novelty in this way prohibited, society would from that moment bid adieu to its most enlivening pleasures, for nothing upon this subject can be invented, nor can the shrewdest ingenuity suggest a remark that has not at some time or other been already made.

As I have been a good deal a dabbler in this way, I may be said to know something of the art, and, though I hope no man can set his face more strenuously than I do against every imposition on the public, yet I confess I have sometimes purposely tried the temper of readers and hearers too, by sporting truth for invention, and invention for truth, in which cases, when I could collect the effect of my experiments, those things that were invented have generally been considered as old, trite, and stale, and the hackneyed jests original, smart, and full of spirit. I speak of essential invention, for as to literal invention, there is no such thing. There have been no new fables written since Esop, and the apothegms of the ancients contain the essence of Joe Miller.

So far I have spoken of men and manners, I shall now speak of nature, from whose face I have endeavoured to portray some lineaments; in which amusement I have, as in every thing else, kept closely to my broad and enlarged scale. Ever uneasy in trammels herself, nature should be freely depicted. What is generally called a view of any particular spot, seldom resembles it, except in some localities. A few trees shall be cut down, and a few houses built, and in a short time what becomes of your view? I consider mere views as I do literal translations, they are correct, and vapid, I therefore shall call what I have done effects, which instead of translations, imply imitations; these are free and liberal, and not slavish, but spirited.

The situations for taking views are an object of material consequence. I could no more clamber up to the summit of Skiddaw, or Ben Lomond, to take a view of the surrounding country, than I could persuade myself to go up to the top of St. Paul's, by way of fore-shortening the chimnies of London, and Westminster. For me, let all such kind of views be confined to birds, and map-makers. There is another very curious mistake in drawing, what are called, views. Mountainous and rocky countries are generally represented as dreary and barren, which is so little the case, that they abound in fertility. This false effect is managed by bringing a rock or a mountain into the fore-ground, and thus every species of vegetation appears trifling and diminutive by its proportionate comparison, whereas, if trees were the forward object, the view would be more rich, and the mountain would exhibit more magnitude by the introduction of its whole form.

This arises from a mental error. It is generally conceived that towards the lakes in CUMBERLAND, and onwards to SCOTLAND, the trees are more and more diminutive and stinted, and thus vegetation is extolled as infinitely more lofty and luxuriant in DEVONSHIRE, than any to be found in GREAT-BRITAIN. This I at a properer time shall particularly expatiate on; at present I shall content myself with saying, that the mistake originates, not in the magnitude of the trees, but in the magnitude of the mountains. Tall trees are in all parts of the country of a given height; nor can the most ancient, or the most luxuriant tree, for very tall and very luxuriant trees there are in SCOTLAND, pay BEN LEDI whose perpendicular height is almost three quarters of a mile, the compliment of a greater real altitude, than those fine elms that cover the hills in DEVONSHIRE, very few of which hills are more than five hundred feet high.

It is this that makes trees in all the Southern and Western parts of the Island the grand object. That elevation of the land, that begins with hills, and afterwards grows to be mountains, lessens in proportion the effect of trees, but not their genuine value, and therefore, as they become proportionably diminutive, the painter's judgment should help out the deficiency, by giving them every advantage of situation, and every grace of appearance. With this eye I have looked at nature, and, though I love beauty, grace, and even luxuriance, as far as it contributes to grandeur, and while it does not trench on that sublimity derived from simplicity, I have convinced myself, and shall endeavour to convince others, that sober, solid beauty, is like reason, which delights you the more you reflect; and gay, diffused, and various objects strewed about in romantic and irregular order, are like folly, which can only please in the absence of reflection.

Having now given you a faithful outline of my plan, my next letter will be addressed to our friend SHELDON, of EXETER, whose worth and talents, and whose readiness to oblige his friends, are I believe, as much the object of your admiration, as they are of

Your faithful Friend,

Leicester-Place. and obliged humble Servant,

NOV. 5, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER II.

INTRODUCTORY.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

IT has very long been my most earnest wish to clear off a considerable arrears of attention, due as a correspondent to my various friends. You, to whom the nature of my employments are well known, and who must have seen that I have scarcely a single moment unoccupied by business, have been friendly enough to take the will for the deed, and continue your steady and uniform good wishes, without an alteration, for four and twenty years, to my infinite profit and pleasure.

In all this time, though it is plain I have studied my own convenience, I have certainly done a violence to my inclinations; for I am not very much delighted with the trammels of business, though I very chearfully submit to them, and therefore, 'tis little to say, that a conversation with you by letter, on subjects which would have afforded me amusement and information, must have been both flattering and desireable, and thus I have proved with very little logic, I am to be pitied rather than blamed.

At length, however, I have an opportunity of making up for all deficiencies, by blending business with pleasure. The Tour I made to the LAND'S END, in the summer of 1798, at which time I was, with my family, so hospitably entertained at your house at EXETER, I followed up, as I informed you in town, with another to SCOTLAND: and during the last summer I have gone over still a much larger space of country, the particulars of all which journies, and the observations con-

sequent upon them, I am now preparing to publish in a series of letters, really* addressed to various friends; so that you see, you are not only likely to get your arrears but to be paid with interest; a manœuvre by the way, as cunning, though not so nefarious as the practice of a gamester, who gives away the first game that he may win all the rest.

I allow that on my way I never let materials even of the smallest consequence go by me unnoticed; but my motions are transitory, yours are regular; I passed through the country, you are stationary in it. What wonder then I am desirous of your opinion and your advice? Nay, I must have it, and I'll shew you how I am entitled to it. About three and twenty years ago, and I mention the circumstance as one of those numerous instances of skill and generosity which in your extensive practice are to be set down to your account, you saved my right hand, and it is but fair therefore, since I owe the use of it to you, that you should assist its labours.†

In a word, all I write for the public relative to DEVONSHIRE, I shall previously submit to either you, or my very old friend DR. CRUWYS, of CRUWYS MORCHARD, to whom, by the way, I am ten times more over head and ears in debt as a correspondent than I have been to you, complaints of which conduct I am afraid you have too often heard from him, and therefore I'll thank you to make some sort of preparatory peace for me; but remember, I neither commit you, nor him, nor

* When it is considered that the most clear and unequivocal conviction will not always acquit writers of imputed imposition, and that men too often implicitly believe, what a moment's reflection will prove to be impossible; it is not amiss that I should be somewhat emphatic in saying, that these letters were *really* written to those whose addresses they bear. After all, perhaps, this very idea may be thought a plagiary, and I shall be suspected of having taken this hint from a blind man about the streets; who, conscious perhaps that impostors are abroad, never fails to preface his exhortation with "dear charitable Christians, I am *really* blind."

† At the time mentioned above, I lost by an accident a piece of a very large needle, at least three quarters of an inch in length, in my wrist. It was improperly searched for by ignorant men, and MR. SHELDON, who came unasked, and with great anxiety to my assistance, treated me in the only way that could possibly prevent a mortification. In consequence of this it laid quiet among the sinews for seventeen months, at which time it began to irritate me again; and, the situation being favourable for his purpose, he extracted it.

indeed, shall I any other correspondent; all I request is, that you will correct inaccuracies of time and place, and give such advice and information as may be useful to me in the prosecution of my plan.

I know we are to have the satisfaction of seeing you in town very shortly, at which our sociable circle of friends most heartily rejoice; but I, nevertheless, submit this introductory letter to you, as I think it within possibility, when I have made my peace with our friend CRUWYS, that you may put your heads together, and then, perhaps, you will bring some materials with you.

Your most sincere,

Leicester-Place, and obliged Friend,

NOV. 5, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER III.

INTRODUCTORY.

DR. CRUWYS.

MY DEAR OLD FRIEND,

I ANTICIPATE the reception of this letter. You will recollect my hand writing; you will call it long looked for come at last; you will loudly, and very properly, reproach me with what has appeared to you my unaccountable and blamable negligence; you will then feel an anxiety to see what I can possibly offer in my defence; you will admit the plea; and you will rejoice that it holds out to you an opportunity of serving and obliging me.

Indeed, my hopes are, that you have not altogether thought me incorrigible, for, as I have heard from you through our kind friend SHELDON, who gives us the pleasure of his valuable company as often as his avocations will permit, during his annual visits to LONDON, I enquire with anxiety, and hear with satisfaction, and I appeal to him for the truth of what I assert, enough to convince me that you think of me with kindness, and in return, I and all belonging to me, feel every possible solicitude for your health and happiness.

These blessings, however, there can be no doubt of. Your constitution is robust; you have your own manor to range; you are the spiritual director of your own parish, and, in addition to the attention of two amiable daughters, you have a family consisting of many hundreds, no less than the whole of your parishioners, who look up to you as a common father, and who will be careful of your welfare, because their own depends upon it. This enviable happiness I left you two years and a half ago in possession of, at which time you paid my family and myself such kind attention at

Cruwys Morchard; when, as a specimen of that plenty which surrounds you, you emptied a fish-pond, that we might chuse our tench; and may you retain it as long as honour and intelligence are an ornament to society, and as the care of the just and the good is the highest compliment to fortune. The fact is, you will now find me, like a singer who bears a great deal of entreaty, and who, when he has once begun, must be entreated to leave off; or, like the Spectator, who holds his tongue for seven volumes, and in the eighth talks you to death. I am giving an account of every matter worthy consideration, that fell under my observation in the course of my marchings and counter-marchings for these three years past, during which time I was, at different periods, six hundred miles from you. The part which relates to Devonshire, I shall confine to you, and our liberal minded Sheldon, and I rely on you both for such remarks as may prevent me from the possibility of any tripping in my narrative. I have kept by me the Exmoor courtship, of which I shall exhibit a specimen in its place.

When I have heard from you I shall begin to prepare my materials; and after I have traversed the counties of Kent and Sussex, with Mr. Thomas Sheldon, I shall set out for the West, and fairly submit to you my remarks, from which I shall augur success, in proportion as they meet your good opinion, so highly thought of and so solicitously requested by

Your sincere friend

Leicester-Place, and warm admirer,

Nov. 6, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER IV.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE PRELIMINARY TOUR.

FROM LONDON TO CANTERBURY.

THOMAS SHELDON, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

You have already agreed that the mode I have adopted of addressing my tour to my various friends will give it spirit and advantage: I find but one inconvenience in it. The situation of the country, geographical facts, and other general matter will be no novelty to them; but on the contrary, such things as they might perhaps dictate to me, with superior accuracy. As however my tour comprehends every county, and almost every principal town in ENGLAND, as well as three-fourths of the counties in SCOTLAND, without a description of these particulars my picture would want an outline. Let my friends therefore, whenever I introduce matters of form, allow the propriety of diffusing general information, and teach me how to give my observations more force and interest.

We all know that ENGLAND is of a triangular form, and that the LAND'S END, DOVER HEAD, and CAITHNESS, are three promontories that form the points; that it lies between the parallels of forty-nine degrees fifty-four minutes, and fifty-five degrees fifty-three minutes north latitude, and between six degrees ten minutes west, and one degree five minutes east longitude; that it is bounded on the north by SCOTLAND, on the east by the German ocean, on the south by the English channel, and on the west by St. George's channel; that with the addition of SCOTLAND, it is denominated GREAT BRITAIN; that SCOTLAND comprehends that part of these united kingdoms lying to the north of the Tweed, and is situated between

fifty-four and fifty-nine degrees of north latitude, and is surrounded by the sea on all sides, except where it joins to ENGLAND.

Speculatists have appeared more anxious, and have produced more authorities to prove that GREAT BRITAIN was once a part of the continent, and that the passage between DOVER and CALAIS was occasioned either by an earthquake or a partial deluge, than to establish the celebrity of its internal greatness, or any one of those points in which one would think more materially consists its consequence on the scale of power; to which I shall only say, that though I do not admire the marvellous, nor delight in worldly calamities, yet should the fact be as these chronologists have dreamt, I most heartily rejoice at it, for it is self-evident that whatever gave us our insular situation laid the foundation of our glory.

ENGLAND was divided into three parts by the Romans, by the Saxons before ALFRED into seven parts, and by ALFRED, with very little variation, into the forty counties which are its subdivisions at this day. On these particulars I shall have abundant opportunity to dwell as I go on in my catalogue *raisonné* of times, places, and circumstances; out of which will grow such observations as I shall conceive most likely to amuse my friends and the public; and, as my first tour, which was a kind of preliminary effort to try my ground, extended no farther than KENT, and so home through SUSSEX, I shall briefly make part of its history the subject of this letter.

KENT is a county of considerable extent and considerable importance. It is maritime, and its boundaries look fairly at FRANCE; it is therefore an object at once of our interest and our solicitude. Much has been said about the derivation of its name, and much is said about the derivations of names, which puzzle rather than convince. It is enough to notice that the meaning of its appellation has been clearly understood ever since CÆSAR, and that it signifies a partition or a cantonment. It lies in the south-east part of ENGLAND, is bounded on the north by the river Thames and the German sea, by the same sea on the east and south-east, and by SUSSEX and SURRY on the south-west and west. It extends in length fifty-six miles from east to west, thirty-six miles from north to south, and is a hundred and sixty-six miles in circumference. It is divided into five lathes, which are

subdivided into four bailiwicks, and these again into sixty-eight hundreds *. It lies in the province of CANTERBURY, and partly in that diocese and partly in the diocese of ROCHESTER. It contains two cities, twenty-eight market towns, four hundred and eight parishes, and sends eighteen members to parliament †.

It is memorable enough that the spring of 1798 was considerably more than mild, it was even hot, and there were more days of that description in April than there were in June, my tour therefore through KENT and SUSSEX had every thing that could render it agreeable; and being fresh to this amusement, for I had not travelled for many years, my mind was ready to imbibe every thing that could satisfy and enlarge it. I passed through DEPTFORD, but not without reflecting on the importance of the dock, and that noble institution the Trinity Society; a body sensibly and properly empowered to take charge of maritime affairs, to so prodigious an extent that sea marks, light houses, the security of every kind of navigation, the regulation in some cases of the watermen on the Thames, the examination of the mathematical children at Christ's hospital, the appointing pilots, and various other duties of infinite consequence come within their power; and from these decisions there is no appeal but to the court of Admiralty.

The royal hospital at GREENWICH, built upon the ruins of that palace where MARY, whose reign disgraced this kingdom, and ELIZABETH, who graced and dignified it, were born, and where the pious EDWARD the Sixth died, demanded from me of course all that admiration due to a charity established as an asylum for the

* A lathe is a division peculiar to this county and SUSSEX. It consists of two or more bailiwicks, as a bailiwick does of two or more hundreds.

† One of the most difficult parts of my whole task has been and will be to ascertain the admeasurements of counties. It could not be possible to have come at any fact from my own knowledge. Whenever I have been, or shall be able to collect it from friends, I apprehend I cannot be otherwise than correct. I have every thing that is to be found on paper. But geographers and road surveyors disagree, maps differ; and though sometimes the variations may be perhaps reconciled by admitting that some have reckoned by computed, and others by measured miles, yet, as the contradictions are so wide and material, rather than argue upon the probability of which may be right and which may be wrong, I shall adopt throughout what I conceive to be the medium most reconcilable to probability, and most likely to fall in with the judgement of the reader.

wearied defenders of my country*. Nor did the Observatory escape my notice, nor the hill where on the next day, the time I speak of being Easter Sunday, April the 8th, and the weather deliciously warm, so much sport was afforded to gaping cocknies in the display of female limbs, which at that time was an amusement not quite so common as it is at present.

BLACKHEATH, probably a corruption of bleak heath, demands a word or two. It is memorable upon many accounts. It has been often the theatre of magnificent exhibitions, for many illustrious personages who visited this country usually had there their first interviews with our monarchs, and it was there the Cornish rebels encamped who made head against HENRY the Seventh. Blackheath is also remarkable for the prodigious number of beautiful seats that surround it, and for its vicinity to the manor of CHARLETON, where is annually kept that celebrated fair which has so long produced so many vulgar jokes to the annoyance of unfortunate men whose wives have given them a chance of going to heaven in the month of April; which wit however is out of place, for HENRY the Third gave the grant of this fair as a mart for all sorts of instruments made with horn, and it is upon that account alone called Horn fair.

WOOLWICH, remarkable for its dock yard for building of ships, and its warren for casting of cannon, next attracted me, on which I shall not at present be particular, but as I write for all readers, and my business will be to insinuate my information everywhere, I shall at proper periods take up general heads, and speak of them in letters set apart for that purpose. Dock yards in general will therefore of course be one of my subjects. In the neighbourhood is ELTHAM, a place much celebrated in history for being the spot where EDWARD the Third gave a sumptuous entertainment to King JOHN of FRANCE, and different festivals, concerning which, as well as other things said of ELTHAM, there are plenty of contradictions; but with this I shall have nothing to do, my business being rather to satisfy curious than inquisitive readers. At SHOOTER'S HILL, supposed by some to have taken its name from the number of robbers that have been accustomed to infest it, but much

* A foreigner, remarking on his travels in ENGLAND, works himself into a degree of enthusiasm at the nobleness, the magnificence, and the grandeur of GREENWICH hospital. He adverts to the principles of its munifical institution, and adds, that he almost wishes himself a decayed seaman, to have so beautiful and honorable a retreat.

more probably from the innumerable feats of archery that have at different periods of history been performed there, the traveller has a view of LONDON and WESTMINSTER, and may be gratified with surveying a part of KENT, of ESSEX, of SURREY, and of SUSSEX.

Beyond SHOOTER'S HILL is WELLING, and in its vicinity the pretty village of ERITH, where stood the famous abbey of canons founded by RICHARD DE LUCY, patronized by THOMAS A BECKET, and consecrated to the Virgin MARY. Above ERITH are the heaths called LESNES and NORTHUMBERLAND, where the famous Lord BALTIMORE built his famous Belvidere, and to the south are the crays, considered by some as the most beautiful spot in the county of KENT, and as usual the bone of contention for such disputants who are fonder of fixing localities than shewing the utility and advantages which arise from particular places as objects of consequence in the scale of general convenience. These wander any where in search of information, rather than look at home. Cray is the French word for chalk, and this is a chalky soil; what could these places therefore have been called but CRAYS?

The river Cray empties itself into the Darent, which SPENSER beautifully describes as one of the rivers attendant on the Thames. On that part of the Darent which runs through DARTFORD is the first paper mill supposed to have been built in ENGLAND, and the first mill for slitting iron into bars and drawing it into wires. DARTFORD is remarkable for the stratagem by which King JOHN took ROCHESTER castle, and the marriage of ISABEL, the sister of HENRY the Third, to the emperor FREDERICK. ST. AUGUSTINE'S priory stood at DARTFORD, which was converted by HENRY the Eighth into a palace, but of which there are now no remains but a solitary gateway celebrated by GROSE. DARTFORD has a considerable corn market, but grain is seldom sold there except through the scandalous and nefarious medium of samples.

Going on towards ROCHESTER you pass over an open plain called the Brent, famous formerly for tilts and tournaments, and lately for cricket; for which exercise, as well as other athletic sports, from their reputed strength, the men of KENT are well calculated; a circumstance however not so applicable to them as has

been generally imagined. They have been beaten at this last exercise, and the palm long since transferred to HAMPSHIRE; and as to their make and form they are greatly exceeded in point of strength by the mountaineers onward from DERBYSHIRE to the Highlands. There is a Roman road to be traced from LAMBETH to ROCHESTER, and even to CANTERBURY, but it is difficult to ascertain it; and were the task accomplished, it would excite more curiosity than it would gratify.

As the country extends before him the traveller passes through STONE, with its neat church and ruinated castle. In the neighbourhood are GREENHITHE, which supplies large quantities of lime for LONDON builders and ESSEX farmers, and SWANSCOMB, the inhabitants of which place are said, or rather fabled to have performed the second part of the march of BIRNAM WOOD to DUNSINANE, by exhibiting the representation of a moving wood, in order to obtain from WILLIAM the Norman a confirmation of all their customary laws and privileges *. NORTHFLEET and its large church are next on the direct road, from whence there is a turning to GRAVESEND, of which place, TILBURY, and every thing adjacent so much is known, from the marshalling of the troops of ELIZABETH to the present day, that it is as unnecessary as it would be impossible to enumerate such particulars here. It will be enough to notice, for the sake of remote readers, that it is the first port on the Thames, and the general rendezvous of all outward bound ships from LONDON.

Further on the villages of SHORNE and COBHAM have a pretty effect; from which the traveller will be diverted by his arrival at GADSHILL, rendered so celebrated by SHAKESPEARE, who asserted no more than the truth in making the Prince of Wales say that retaking the booty from FALSTAFF would be argument for a week, laugh-

* It is more probable that WILLIAM was prevailed upon to confirm the privileges of the men of KENT through an admiration of their courage and firmness, and from the good sense of uniting to his cause such a powerful description of his subjects, than such a pantomimical exhibition as a movi g grove. The customs he radicated are now enjoyed under the name of Gavelkind, by virtue of which every man possessed of lands, in KENT exclusively, is not bound by copyhold, customary tenure or tenant right. An heir may enter upon his estate at fifteen years of age, and dispose of it as he pleases, and can enjoy his inheritance even though the ancestor has been guilty of theft, or murder, or any other felony, except treason, piracy, outlawry, and abjuring the realm; and from this comes the Kentish proverb, "The father to the bough, and the son to the plough."

ter for a month, and a good jest for ever. STROUD is the next place worthy attention, of which ROCHESTER and CHATHAM are no more than a continuation.

I arrived in the evening at ROCHESTER, where I remained a week. This city is very ancient, and as a see it yields to no one but CANTERBURY. It is thirty miles from LONDON, fifteen from DARTFORD, seven from GRAVESEND, ten from TOWN-MALLING, twenty from SEVENOAKS, twenty from TUNBRIDGE, nine from MAIDSTONE, twenty-eight from ASHFORD, eleven from SITTINGBOURN, seventeen from FAVERSHAM, twenty-five from CANTERBURY, and eighteen from SHEERNESS. It is situated in a pleasant valley, and the different forms and great variety in the surrounding hills greatly diversify the scenery, and induce interest and attraction; of these prospects the Medway, out of which they rise, forms a commanding feature. This river has its rise near TUNBRIDGE, and after flowing by ROCHESTER and CHATHAM falls into SHEERNESS. It is navigable for barges from TUNBRIDGE to MAIDSTONE, in which course of fifteen miles it is fed by innumerable springs, particularly at HADLOW and at TWYFORD bridge.

The bridge that separates STROUD from ROCHESTER, the castle, the cathedral, St. Nicholas, and the town hall, have all something remarkable to recommend them to the traveller's notice; but these, the rights, tenures, and privileges of the different town officers, and similar facts, it would be utterly impossible according to my plan to enter into. Origins are generally involved in doubt and difficulty, and as the exercises of both spiritual and secular directors are professedly in their operation the same at ROCHESTER as at every other town, I should subject myself to an eternal repetition of the time, place, and manner of erections and inductions, in the particulars of which there would always be a tedious and troublesome sameness, I shall therefore dismiss this subject after having given a very brief account, and exhibited a drawing of the castle, principally however to depict the situation of the Medway and the surrounding country; for in my idea ruins and men hanging in chains, which bear a strong resemblance, are melancholy objects, and therefore at any rate should be confined to the distance.

The castle was two years ago, and I suppose is now, rented by a considerable tradesman, as a kind of storehouse for gunpowder and other articles in which he

dealt. There are the traces of some curious workmanship, particularly the machinery by which all the apartments were supplied from one well; but this, as well as the dungeon, the loop holes for defence, the precautions for safety in case of invasion, and other similar objects, are only copies of every other ancient and fortified place, and therefore induces a lamentation that castles of this description were rather edifices of annoyance to enemies, than mansions of hospitality for the reception of friends.

That there is an extensive dock yard, and that there are convenient storehouses, a victualling office, barracks for a large division of marines, and a chest as a fund for the families of decayed seamen at Chatham, every body knows, and also that establishments of this kind vary very little let them be situated where they may, being always a noble symptom of the grandeur, the opulence, and the glory of a great nation; but my plan will not let me examine minutely this or that institution. I shall take the nature of their prodigious number and variety into a general consideration in the course of this work, and by summing the particulars of their importance together, exhibit an aggregate of magnificence that this country alone can boast. Adjoining to Chatham is Brompton, and the village of Gillingham.

The hill beyond Chatham gives a most descriptive prospect of the richness and fertility of Kent, for almost every object of agriculture is to be seen from thence in great abundance, and to wonderful advantage, particularly the hop grounds, which are esteemed the most productive in England. These, with the orchards, the cherry gardens, the neat churches, and the Medway, which frequently peeps in among them, enrich this busy scene of cultivated nature; to which Standgate creek, Sheerness, the Nore, and the coast of Essex add a beautiful and extensive termination.

The village of Rainham succeeds to Chatham, and the ancient town of Newington to Rainham, where you hear of a nunnery, and a prioress being strangled in her bed, and other traditionary things, not worthy the attention of a sober enquirer. Near this place also is Standard Hill, where the Roman eagle was displayed, according to the rakers into antiquity, who assert, that, because Roman coins and other vessels have been dug up in a field near at hand, that there was

a Roman pottery in that place; and they urge as a proof of this, that the pots were of different sizes when found, and generally empty.

KEY STREET follows, from whence appears BORDEN church, in which there is a monument to the memory of the famous Dr. PLOT; and further to the right is MILTON, where ALFRED divided ENGLAND into hundreds and shires *; but it was razed to the ground by GODWIN in the time of EDWARD the Confessor, from which time it has gradually revived to what it is at present. In the direct road is first CHALK WELL, and then SITTINGBOURN; about half a mile on the right of which are the remains of BAYFORD Castle, which was said to have been built by ALFRED, to secure that part of the kingdom against the incursions of the DANES. SITTINGBOURNE has nothing that varies from the general character of considerable post towns.

BATCHILD is remarkable for nothing but a stone wall, which is part of a building used as a resting place for the pilgrims who travelled to the shrine of THOMAS A BECKET at CANTERBURY. To the left is the village of TONG, near which place there are the ruins of a castle, said to have been built by HENGIST and THORSA. A corn mill however is now supplied by the moat, which may be thus figuratively said to atone for its former destruction of mankind, by now contributing to their nourishment. In the direct road is GREEN STREET, at which place is held a fair for cattle on the eighth of MAY. CASTLE GROVE is near this place, where there are some vestiges of an ancient fortification. FAVERSHAM, of which place might be given a very long, and rather an interesting history, is a spirited sea port, situated on an arm of the Swale, into which runs a beautiful rivulet, arising in the parish of OSSPRING, affording a convenient backwater to the haven. Much is said of this place by tradition, and more by conjecture, terms almost synonymous; and it is positively asserted, if not well authenticated, that a settlement from the continent in KENT was made on this spot, and more than a thousand years before the invasion of JULIUS CÆSAR. It appeared to me to be a sprightly, pleasant town, en-

* The wisdom of ALFRED has in no respect been more eminently proved than in the operation of his laws, many of which are observed even to this moment by the letter. Witness the regulation now spoken of, as well as the Winchester bushel, and the watch and ward ordered to be kept in all hundreds; the neglect of which entitles every person robbed between sun and sun to sue the county.

livened by an opulent and social neighbourhood, who seem perfectly comfortable among one another, and polite and courteous to strangers. PRESTON and its neat church follows up FAVERSHAM. The parish of SHELWICK lies to the right. In the direct road is BOUGHTON STREET, afterwards BOUGHTON HILL, which commands a beautiful retrospective view; then HARBLEDOWN, where was formerly shewn that superstitious relic, THOMAS A BECKET's slipper, which the pilgrims used to kiss and worship; and one mile further stands CANTERBURY, at the distance of fifty-six miles from LONDON, seventeen from MARGATE, eighteen from RAMSGATE, thirteen from SANDWICH, eighteen from DEAL, sixteen from DOVER, eighteen from FOLKSTONE, seventeen from HITHE, twenty-seven from NEW ROMNEY, and fourteen from ASHFORD. Here then I shall rest my pen and your patience. In my next I shall speak pretty freely of CANTERBURY, and hasten to the remainder of those places I visited in KENT.

Leicester-Place. Yours very sincerely,

NOV. 15, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER V.

FROM CANTERBURY TO DOVER.

THOMAS SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I SHALL now speak shortly of the most interesting particulars relative to CANTERBURY, which are well worthy the attention of the curious traveller. This city, the capital of KENT, is situated in a pleasant valley, is watered by the river Stour, which receives, and is refreshed by a variety of springs that issue from the surrounding hills; and while the hop grounds, which are numerous and picturesque, derive benefit and beauty from these genial currents, which thus forward the purpose of husbandry, the miller and the mechanic partake of the general advantages. The worsted, the silk, and the muslins manufactures are well worthy attention, and the cotton mill, though small, is upon an admirable principle, being one of the earliest in which was introduced carding by a circular, instead of an angular operation, which last was ARKWRIGHT's plan, before it was improved upon.

The antiquity of CANTERBURY is spoken of with some exultation; and, indeed, if there be any merit in happening to be born at a place which had existed as a city nine hundred years before CHRIST, a distinction of which this spot proudly boasts, no little cause for this pride, which if not laudable, is perfectly harmless, falls to the lot of those who have partaken of this fortuitous good fortune. CANTERBURY had once seventeen churches, fifteen at present remain, and near to one, ST. PETER's, are two mineral springs, which though they rise within seven feet of each other, produce water of a perfectly different quality.

Of these churches I can neither particularly speak, nor do I conceive it materially necessary. As however, this is the leading episcopal see in ENGLAND, some circumstances relative to the cathedral may be worthy attending to. It is a structure of considerable extent, and like most of the other cathedrals, chequered with many appearances of its having been at different times the scene of both Popish and Protestant worship, for it exhibits at once barbarism and beauty. The choir is said to be the largest in ENGLAND; but the most remarkable circumstance attending it is the several chapels which either lead to or make a part of it, the principal of which is that consecrated to the Holy Trinity, which held the shrine of ST. THOMAS A BECKET, as he was called while the farce lasted; so many devotees came from all quarters to this shrine, and poured out their offerings so fast, that it became as really wealthy as it was fancied to be sacred. ERASMUS, who was a wag, and who visited it, tells us that a coffin of wood which covered a coffin of gold was drawn up by ropes and pullies, and then an invaluable treasure was discovered; gold was the meanest thing to be seen there; all shined and glittered with the most precious jewels of an extraordinary size, some of which were larger than the egg of a goose. By which description ERASMUS seems figuratively to have described what species of folly these egg-like jewels engendered.

HENRY the Eighth, however, who like ESTIFANIA in the play, had an eye to gold and jewels, seized in his usual way upon every thing; and, pocketing the finery and putting a stop to the oblations, established the cathedral upon its present foundation of a dean, twelve prebendaries, and other officers and servants; at which time it also recovered its ancient name of Christ Church, it having from the time of the martyrdom of THOMAS A BECKET, as it was usually denominated, been called after his name.

Two miles from CANTERBURY, in the way to MARGATE, which was my next destination, is STURRY, about a quarter of a mile further is FORDWICH, which though no bigger than GARRAT, has actually a mayor, jurats, and commonalty. This is supposed to have been a considerable sea-port; but, though in the reign of ELIZABETH the Stour was made navigable as high as CANTERBURY, there is no reason to suppose that either the greater or the smaller river of that name ever admitted vessels of any considerable size, or communicated with the sea otherwise than by

the arm called Wantsum, which formerly separated THANET from the main land of KENT.

From UPSTREET, the road descends into the marshes, and the traveller arrives at SARR, once a port and a flourishing place. RECULVER also is only at three miles distance, where SEVERUS is said to have built a castle, where ETHELBERT built a palace, and where an abbey was founded in 650. Part of the present church is Saxon architecture, and its lofty spires, known by the name of the Two Sisters, are of great use to those mariners who navigate the Kentish coast; so that this great variety of fluctuations prove incontestibly the antiquity of KENT.* THANET, which begins at SARR, is celebrated for being the first place where the arts entered this country.* To the left of the road is the neat village of ST. NICHOLAS, and on the right is the small town of MONKTON, so called from the monks, who usually resided there.

To MONKTON succeeds ACOL, and near it, in the marshes, is the small town of MINSTER, which we are told, though the most ancient has the handsomest church in the kingdom. Not having seen it, I can neither confirm nor contradict the assertion. It was a nunnery called by the name of ST. MILDRED, who was cannonized for her piety. On the left is BIRCHINGTON, where, in an ancient mansion, is shewn a room in which WILLIAM the Third used occasionally to reside when the winds was adverse to his embarkations to HOLLAND. DANDELION next presents itself, anciently the seat of the family of DENT DE LION, and now the Bagnigge-Wells of MARGATE, which is in sight from this place, and where you presently arrive.

MARGATE is so well known and its advantages and disadvantages, from the bathing machines to the raffling shops, so felt and remembered by the rheumatisms and empty purses of those who have experienced their effects, that it is too fair an object of animadversion to be passed over in a publication like this; but, as my readers will accompany me in the course of my work to almost every one of those

* When I come generally to speak of agriculture, I shall have much to say, not only of the cultivation of land in KENT, but in the isle of THANET in particular.

places which allure by an invitation to invigorate the functions of the constitution, and proceed to a gradual decay of the functions of the pocket, it would be unfair to confine that censure and those strictures to one place, which are so richly merited by every other of a similar description, where all the meritorious purposes of life are destroyed by a total inaction; and listlessness and apathy supply the room of that industrious diligence calculated to fit the mind of any being in any situation to those pursuits by which alone they can be rationally considered as worthy members of human society.

Leaving therefore for the present spas and salt water, the efficacy of which I shall hereafter consider, and shew by an exposition of the various contradictory opinions concerning them, that the conclusion to be gathered thence are about as much in their favour, as the sovereign virtue of those quack medicines sold in the raffling shops, which are all specifics, all authenticated, all capable of curing complaints when every thing else has failed, and the patients have been given over by the regular physicians.* Leaving all these, I shall only speak of a few circumstances peculiar to MARGATE and RAMSGATE.

MARGATE is situated on the north side of the island, within a small bay in the breach of the cliff, which being a kind of gate to the sea, from that circumstance the place takes its name. It has a pleasant harbour, which is, however, but little frequented, except by small vessels, on account of its shallow water. The Pier is very ancient but by repairs from time to time is now in a tolerable state. In these particulars RAMSGATE boasts considerable superiority; the new harbour, one of the piers of which is entirely of white Purbeck stone, is exceedingly beautiful and capacious, and affords a welcome shelter for ships in hard gales of wind, from the south east to the east north east, when they are exposed to the utmost danger in the Downs.

These, like BRIGHTHELMSTONE and several other watering places, were originally fishing towns; at which time, as the health of individuals stood in no need of any further stimulus than exercise, the offspring of industry, it would have been just

* In one bookseller's catalogue I counted the titles of a hundred and sixty seven of these sovereign remedies.

as conducive to the convenience and comfort of society, perhaps, had they till this moment remained in their ancient simplicity, and not admitted so many fishers of men. The prodigious number of visitors that resort to both these scenes of indolence, have at times been truly astonishing, particularly lately; not from an idea that idlers are not abundant, but that men who complain of the difficulty of maintaining their families in times of such scarcity, should be able to sport the appearance of high fashion, and squander away immense sums to promote every species of absurdity, and even profligacy, and yet who wonder, with such examples before their faces, that sons should rob them of their money, and daughters of their peace of mind.

The motley assembly at MARGATE is the most curious part of the story, not in appearance, for the tradesman vies with my lord; and he, who at the court end of the town would stand bowing with his hat off at the carriage of Sir THOMAS, or Sir HARRY, till, by his insinuating manners he had accomplished the sale of baubles to the tune of twenty pounds, not worth five, here sports a curricle superior in style to that of the baronet: and dashing by him with all the knowing airs of taste and ton, whispers to his wife, who has been advised to duck for a sciatica, that it is a shame for such fellows to look honest tradesmen in the face, when they are so deep in their books.

The most curious instance of this equalizing system, for death and the raffling shops level all distinctions, is the number of passengers that are crowding into the hoys. These vessels, which are generally from eighty to a hundred tons burthen, were intended to convey provisions and other stores for the convenience of the visitor who could not otherwise be furnished with a sufficient stock of necessaries. It has been long, however, a custom to crowd those hoys with passengers, and the general remark is, that many have arrived at MARGATE in a post-chaise and four, who have been obliged to return by the hoy.

It is true the price, which is only half-a-crown, is no object; the masters are decent careful men, and in fine weather, with a fair wind, a jaunt in a pleasant yacht with a select party might be attended with pleasureable circumstances enough, for the passage may be made in eight hours; but as it may also take

three days, and as high, low, rich, poor, sick and sound, are all huddled together without discrimination, it cannot be very agreeable, and I am sure it cannot be very delicate for fine ladies, who on the night before, had, perhaps, been walking a minuet at BENSON'S, to encounter the great variety of peculiarly revolting circumstances that must inevitably attend the dispositions, the tempers, and the necessities of such a motley crew, so jumbled into all those chances of distress and inconvenience which from that situation alone could possibly arise.

Along the coast is the north Foreland, the extreme point east of ENGLAND. This cape, which projects into the sea in the form of a bastion, is universally known, as well as its octagon light-house, where a large fire of coals is kept blazing all night, as a guide for ships near the coast, the expence of which is defrayed by the ships; every British ship pays two-pence, and every foreign one fourpence. The regulations are under the direction of the Trinity House. Beacons formerly stood near STONE, a place at a small distance from this. The beacon was a tall piece of timber with a pulley on the top, by means of which was drawn up a barrel of lighted pitch; an humble imitation of the Bengal light.

BROADSTAIRS, an inconsiderable fishing hamlet, is the next object, and opposite to it at the distance of two leagues, are those gulphs of destruction, the GOODWIN sands.* A mile to the right of BROADSTAIRS is the pleasant village of ST. PETER. The church is an object of pleasure and utility, for it has a neat appearance, and is a well-known sea-mark. Here the cliffs of CALAIS are clearly in sight, and having passed through DUMPTON, the traveller arrives at RAMSGATE. From RAMSGATE you get to ST. LAWRENCE, and afterwards arrive at CLIFF-END, and about two miles fur-

* It is impossible to contemplate the nature of these sands without horror. Their length is about ten miles, and their breadth about two. We are told by an intelligent and consistent author, that they are "of a more soft, fluid, "porous, spongious and yet tenacious matter than the neighbouring sands, therefore of a more voracious and ingurgi-"tating property. So that should a first-rate man of war strike on them, in a few days it would be so wholly swal-"lowed up as that no part of it would be seen." It is curious to be told, as we are with great gravity, that these sands were occasioned by the steeple at TENTERDEN; for that lying very low, they were before the building of that steeple, kept from a communication with the sea by a large wall, which was however maintained and upheld with considerable care, and at an immense expence; but the abbot of ST. AUSTIN'S monastery neglecting the wall while he was building the steeple, the sea broke in and overflowed the land. The dimensions and situation of the GOODWIN sands seem, I think, to rescue the abbot's reputation from this slander.

ther at IBBSFLEET, which was formerly a place of great antiquity. It is a small creek or bay about three miles from SANDWICH, and about a mile from RICHBOROUGH castle. At this place are said to have landed the Saxons under HENGIST, and the missionaries who attended AUGUSTINE. Further on is STONAR, about which so much has been said concerning its ancient privileges, and the grave of VORTIGERN, but which is now distinguished only by two or three solitary houses, and some salt-pans. About a mile to the right of STONAR, is RICHBOROUGH, the Retupuim of the Romans. It was their first and most considerable station in this kingdom, and the chief port from which they carried on their trade and connexions with the continent, all this part of the coast opposite to DUNKIRK, CALAIS and BOULOGNE, being called the Retupian shore. There are many more particulars, of which we may believe as much as we find convenient to our understandings, for there is no trace of this famous city, the ground on which it stood being now an open corn field. The remains of the castle, however, are curious enough, for those who chuse to search minutely into antiquity, a subject that may have its pleasures, but had I suffered it to have arrested my attention in my different pursuits, I should never have arrived, either in my journey or in my book to the LAND'S END, much less to the CARSE of GOWRY.

SANDWICH is a mile and a half from the sea, eight miles from MARGATE, twelve from CANTERBURY, ten from DOVER, and five from DEAL. As to the conjectures concerning this place anciently, I shall for the above reasons let them entirely alone, and only mention what occurred to me as its characteristic when I visited it; and as light and shade constitute the effect of a picture, so nothing could display a more striking contrast than MARGATE and SANDWICH.

One appeared to me all dissipation, the other all sobriety; and upon enquiry I found the cause to be this: MARGATE is composed of inhabitants who, like members of a gaming house, after they have made their markets of others, are obliged to look warily after one another, and thus distrust occupying the place of confidence, good fellowship makes no part of their character. SANDWICH, though I believe, for my duty is to be faithful, it derived in a great measure its opulence from smuggling, is inhabited by a set of people, the members of whose families have so often intermarried that the town is not only one community, but, as far

as the law can authorize it, they are all relations, therefore not only the interests, but the pleasures are every where reciprocal. I shall give one strong instance within my own knowledge.

I beg leave to premise that it is not my intention, but as little as possible to lug myself into view; but, as the character in which I travelled brought forward the best observations it will be in my power to make, there would be a kind of affectation in qualifying by allusion what can never have such strong force as when fairly told as plain fact. I arrived at MARGATE at an inauspicious time for the encouragement of a public entertainment. I had however a very capital night; but a lady at RAMSGATE, who took it into her head to be very angry because I had not given that place a preference, went very great lengths indeed to spoil my sport. She sent cards of invitation to all the inhabitants of MARGATE whom she could eligibly invite, and thought herself perfectly sure of the officers of a regiment which had that morning arrived; but she was deserted by every body, officers, pioneers and all, nay even by many of the inhabitants of her own town, and was obliged to range her splendid apartments alone, while my place was crowded.

At SANDWICH I was honestly informed that I must not hope for success, for that a lady was to have a christening, and had invited the whole place, and that the engagements had been for some time made. I acquiesced in the propriety of the objection, and was preparing for my departure to DEAL, when I received a message that, as I had no other night to spare, the lady had put off the christening, and with equal industry and liberality had dispatched fresh cards to all her friends, requesting their company at my rendezvous, giving for a reason that she might take another opportunity of christening her child, but she understood there could not possibly, according to my arrangement, be any other opportunity of seeing me. Without enquiring how far I merited the notice of either of those ladies, I think there could not be a stronger instance of caprice on one side, or consistency on the other.

SANDWICH, however, after all must appear very dull to strangers, for though it has great capabilities, the inhabitants are more independant than spirited; and, by possessing internal content, are like men who prefer a certain competency

rather than incur the risk too often run by venturing for a large fortune. The three castles of SANDOWN, WOLMER, and DEAL, are in your view at different times before you arrive at DEAL, which in my idea is a very pretty town. It is composed of three streets in parallel lines, not unlike the new town of EDINBURGH, except that the houses at DEAL are only handsome, those at EDINBURGH magnificent. DEAL is a true sea-port. The communication with ships in the Downs gives the sailors perfectness in nautical knowledge, more of which is to be learnt in channel service in a week than on the open sea in six months. It is owing to this that the Deal men, whose forms are wonderfully compact and athletic are such expert pilots; and as to their expedition in embarking troops there are no such boatmen perhaps in the kingdom, and therefore certainly not in the world.* Before we quit Deal, it will be proper to remark that it has often been thought feasible to construct a harbour for the safety of ships which occasionally ride at anchor in the Downs, and which in spite of every precaution are too often exposed to great and sometimes inevitable danger.

Nature seems to have designed the flat shore between SANDWICH and DEAL for that purpose; and in 1744, a proposal to that effect was submitted to parliament by a petition presented by Mr. FANE; but though the scheme appeared not only plausible but even expedient, it was rejected in favour of the harbour at RAMSGATE, which certainly can never be rendered completely effectual.

From DEAL we go upon the edge of the cliffs, which are romantic and precipitous, with the French coast full in view to DOVER, whose cliff SHAKESPEARE has so strongly described. It is, however, infinitely less tremendous than many other

* I had a music printer who had made a voyage to the EAST INDIES, and yet who did not know either the meaning or the use of the davit, which is no more than a leaver taken into a boat to weigh what is called the kedge anchor, an implement in the form of an anchor, which serves to keep the ship steady when she rides in a harbour. But there is a story related of a thorough bred seaman, who was perfectly ignorant of a most common-place term. When persons are sick on salt water so as to induce vomiting, the action is ludicrously called by the sailors shooting the cat. Sailors all the world knows are addicted to superstition, and in particular, partly out of fear and partly out of awe, hold in great veneration a cat. This sailor I allude to had a cat to which he paid great attention. One of the passengers on a voyage being surprized with a most violent sickness, and all its consequences, Zounds, said one of the tars, that man has been shooting the cat. "Has he, by God," said Jack, "Damme then if I don't go "and shoot him."

objects, but it well demonstrates the animated mind of our glorious bard, who in writing so interestingly on DOVER, shews how he would have done justice to a description of the frightful EAGLE craig in BORROWDALE, or the perpendicular descent of the towering BEN LOMOND. DOVER, however, is singularly situated, and its inhabitants are a most curious and extraordinary compound, having been chequered by English or French emigrants, who time out of mind from necessity or pleasure have passed and repassed that strait, to which we are indebted for our matchless grandeur and our enviable glory.

Here, and indeed at every other sea-port, I had an opportunity of witnessing the whimsical, original playfulness of the sailors. A party of them in a post-chaise took it by turns to throw a large stone fastened to a rope, backwards and forwards in imitation of heaving the lead. Another set bought all the gingerbread at an old woman's stall on purpose to set a parcel of hungry boys to scramble for it; and, one day, a sailor, who had noticed that the ladies were accustomed to ride on horseback, fastened a doll to a jack-ass, and whipt it through the streets, though had it been necessary, I have no doubt but the same sailor would have risked his life, and have been thankful for the opportunity to have protected any one of those he had the wanton folly to ridicule. I have made it a constant remark that sailors are timid and respectful admirers of female modesty; and whatever may be their freaks in their cups, it is very rarely indeed that we hear of a premeditated insult, or in fact, any other conduct from even the lowest of them than admiration and respect towards women of real delicacy. I hope it will not appear inviduous if regard to truth obliges me to notice, that the same cannot be generally said of soldiers; but, adieu, my letter is too long. In my next I shall take leave of KENT.

Leicester-Place. Yours with perfect truth and sincerity,

NOV. 18, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER VI.

FROM DOVER TO TENTERDEN.

THOMAS SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

PARTICULARS relative to DOVER are so well known, that I the less regret my obligation to be every where concise. The pier, which has time after time cost such incredible efforts of labour and sums of money, on which HENRY the Eighth expended eighty thousand pounds, part probably of THOMAS A BECKET's shrine, and better bestowed to encourage liberal commerce than abet holy hypocrisy, on which so much ingenuity has been employed; and after all to so little purpose, on which in imitation of the old story of fortifying the besieged town, a brick wall was built by a bricklayer, a stone wall by a stone-mason, and a wooden wall by a ship-wright; but which after all, can receive no ships of large burden, is well known to all those living who have passed from DOVER to CALAIS, and from CALAIS to DOVER, and therefore requires but little description.

The castle has been a wonderful fortification. It was considered of such great importance, that it was given as a pledge to HAROLD, that he should possess the crown after the death of EDWARD the Confessor. STEPHEN made its possessors the condition with MAUD the empress, during their dispute for sovereignty, which a tennis player would have called having a bisque in the sleeve. When the barons delivered up, at the instigation of the Pope, the principal castles and forts in the South of ENGLAND to the DAUPHIN of FRANCE, in the reign of King JOHN, he

did not think himself safe without the possession of DOVER Castle; in confirmation of which, his father swore by St. JAMES'S arm, which circumstance BEN JOHNSON is supposed to have ridiculed when he makes BOBADIL swear by PHAROAH'S foot, that unless he possessed that fortress he had not a foot of land in ENGLAND, which proved so true, that when it was besieged, the Earl of KENT, and his Kentish followers defended it so gallantly, that it was the occasion of delivering the kingdom from foreign servitude. This castle, in which there are now barracks for three thousand men, its well, which is three hundred and sixty feet deep, and lined to the bottom with free stone, Queen ELIZABETH'S pocket pistol, which is a brass gun, twenty-two feet in length, which requires fifteen pounds of powder for its charge, and is said to carry a ball seven miles; and the two Roman watch-towers very naturally and properly excite the curiosity of strangers.

Beyond DOVER, towards FOLKSTONE, the cliff gradually rises to a considerable height; and there, as it most naturally appears, is the situation described by SHAKESPEAR, especially as at that place the chalk hardens into stone, and the forms are more romantic. From the extremity of this hill, where there is a telegraph, you look down the chimnies of FOLKSTONE, which place has a ruinated castle and a watch-tower, a few genteel houses, inhabited by retired captains of ships and other relative characters, which abounds with fish, and therefore, according to the information I had from a gentleman resident there, swarms with children.

Near FOLKSTONE is SANDGATE Castle, and about five miles to the north west is a small town called ELHAM; but the pleasantest road is immediately from FOLKSTONE to HYTHE, in which you pass through the neat and clean village of SANDGATE, now a fashionable watering place in little, and which will of course, lose in time all that neatness and simplicity with which nature has stampt it. The entrance to HYTHE, with the church on the hill, is perfectly rich and picturesque. The town itself seems to be inhabited by a sociable friendly set, who, like all those near the sea coast, are some way or other concerned with shipping, and therefore naturally jovial and hospitable. The contiguity of this place to the coast has, at different times been nearly fatal to it, and that decay which LIME and WEST HYTHE have suffered, and to which the Hythe I am now speaking of, owes its prosperity, has at times threatened the shore for many miles together: but this is not the only kind

of fatality to which this little spirited place has been apparently devoted. In the reign of HENRY the Fourth, most of the inhabitants were carried off with a pestilence, which was succeeded by a fire that consumed two hundred houses; they suffered afterwards considerably by a storm, which sunk five ships, and drowned a hundred men; and at length it was convulsed by an earthquake, which seems to have shook it into permanent safety, for it has now no traces of any of these accidents.

From HITHE I went to ASHFORD, which is a very improving town, and will be more so when it has a proper road from thence to Canterbury, as its situation is central between the capital and the coast. Having returned to HITHE, my next progress was over the marches to New ROMNEY, inhabited by a jolly, hearty, set of wealthy graziers, who fatten upon the land in the same proportion as the prodigious number of cattle committed from all parts to their care: but they richly deserve it, for the situation is very unhealthy, and nothing but their iron sinews could endure it. LYDD is a populous town, but small: it is remarkable for nothing but being the burial place of St. CRISPIN. Five miles to the west of Old ROMNEY is APPLEDORE, where the DANES are supposed to have landed in the reign of ALFRED. Two miles north of this place, is a small village, called WAREHAM. The Isle of OXNEY, which lies to the south-west, contains two or three villages; and six miles north-east of APPLEDORE, stands TENTERDEN, a clean sociable town, and well situated, at which place I took my leave of KENT.

Though my promise does not extend to biographical intelligence, it may not be amiss to speak generally, now and then of celebrated men. At present, in order to shew that KENT produced much strength of mind as well as body, I shall merely notice some leading characters.

RANDOLPH, an eminent statesman, was born 1523, at BADLESMERE, near FAVERSHAM: his famous letter to WALSINGHAM, wherein he seemed to doubt the integrity of public characters, is well known. "It is now full time," says he, "to bid "farewel to the tricks, you of a secretary, and I of an ambassador, and for both "of us to make our peace with heaven." LINACRE, one of the most celebrated physicians of the sixteenth century, and the elegance of whose stile in writing

Erasmus so commended, was born at Canterbury; so was Boyle, commonly known by the title of the Great Earl of Cork; and so was Somner, the great antiquary: Bishop Kennet was born at Dover. He was a man of strong faculties: he founded an antiquarian and historical library at Peterborough, and projected other laudable schemes. Philip York, Lord High Chancellor of England, and a man of transcendent abilities was also born at Dover.

Harvey, who is said to have first discovered the circulation of the blood, was born at Folkstone, in 1578; Bishop Hoadley was born at Westram; Sir Charles Sedley, a celebrated wit and poet of the seventeenth century, was a native of Aylesford. Wallis, an eminent mathematician, drew his first breath at Ashford. Caxton, who introduced the art of printing into England, was born in Kent; so was Lord Keeper Sir Nicholas Bacon, and the place is said to have been Chislehurst: he was a man of equal talents and modesty: Elizabeth noticed his humility, and told him that his house was too small for him. "Not so, Madam," said he, "but your Majesty has made me too great for my house." The curious Lilly, a writer, who rendered himself remarkable for introducing into his Euphues and his England, a singular jargon, which became universally a fashion, was born in the wilds of Kent, where one might suppose he studied this extravagance. Walsingham, the Secretary to whom Randolph alludes, was a native of Chislehurst.

Sir Richard Baker, whose mad chronicles are so idolized by the credulous, and so despised by men of sober minds, came into that world, in which he created for himself so much misery and trouble, at Sisinghurst. Sir Henry Wotton was born at Bocton; he was a great statesman, and remarkable for many things, and among the rest for his definition of an ambassador; who, according to him, is an honest man sent abroad to lie for the good of his country. Evelyn was a native of Wotton; he was highly celebrated as a philosopher, and gave great and active support to many public pursuits in the course of his life. The celebrated Dr. Plot was born in the parish of Bosden. Hales, so well known as a worthy divine, and an eminent mechanical genius, was a native of Becknesbourne. George Byng, Lord Torrington, Rear Admiral of Great Britain, First Lord of the Admiralty, and father to Admiral Byng, who was shot by the sentence of a court-martial at Portsmouth, was a Kentish man; and so was Sir George Rooke, one of the bravest

and most able seamen this country ever boasted, and with him, by way of sample of a very large number, I finish the account of my Kentish worthies.

The air of KENT is subject to those inconveniencies occasioned by its vicinity to the sea, but this circumstance has also its advantages, and in some instances those saline particles which impregnate the air, of course serve to fortify the body, and materially to promote vegetation. The soil, as the abundant produce of the country testifies, is in general favourable to husbandry. The woad and madder for dying, grow here in great perfection, of which circumstance an improper advantage has lately been taken in relation to woad, which has induced some spirited clothiers in YORKSHIRE to attempt at raising it in their own county. For the purpose of this undertaking, not above four months ago a consultation was held with Sir JOSEPH BANKS on the subject, the result of which, and the steps taken in consequence, I shall hereafter have an opportunity of laying before my readers, having received a promise from some opulent Yorkshire friends to be furnished with all the particulars. No county produces hops, cherries, and saintfoin in greater perfection than KENT, and the FORDWICH trout are very celebrated; they are, however, much inferior to those of the DERWENT water, and LOCH LEVEN. The roads, except the road from LONDON regularly to DOVER, which after all, is in places heavy and toilsome, are very indifferent, particularly over the marshes; and, as the materials are bad and the foundations unfavourable, this circumstance must always operate as a drawback on the pleasures of all travellers, who are unwilling to believe that difficulties enhance enjoyment.

Though I know but little of botany, it is a study I should very much delight in had I opportunity to pursue it, I shall therefore, as I love participation of intelligence, take advantage of my own remarks, and the relations of others, by informing the public what nature of plants are remarkable in different places: we naturally fancy we give pleasure by imparting to others what pleases ourselves.

The more rare plants found in KENT, are the *Albies marina belgica*; or, sea-fir; four species of the *Anchusæ*, called in common bastard gromell, red alkanet, yellow alkanet, and small alkanet, called also bugloss. This plant was used by the ancients as a cosmetic, and the roots is said to have been applied with success

to stop hæmorrhages: the red sort also gives out a rich colour with oil. The large and small *Corallina Anglica, Crithmum spinosum,* thorny samphire, or sea-parsnip. The *Beta alba,* one of the five emollient herbs, *Anthyllis,* called in general lady's finger, but this in particular, sea-pimpernel; *Artiplex marina,* or sea-orach; *Brassica marina anglica,* or sea-colworts. Of the woad and madder I shall hereafter give a particular description.

In the islands of SHEPPY and THANET are the sea-rocket; *Eruca marina,* the sea-fennel; *Fucus feralaceus,* and several other fucusses, such as fennel-moss, sea-girdle, and ragged-staff; *Glaux,* which is called sea-milkwort, black salt-wort, and sea-chickweed. The common sea-purslane, *Halimus vulgaris*; rag-wort, *Jacobea marina,* and garden-spurge, *Lathyris.* Rock lavender, *Limonium parvum,* grows profusely on the cliffs near MARGATE and RAMSGATE; the *Lychais marina,* or sea-camphire, and many of the mosses are also to be found on the rocks and shores; the pretty spurge, *Peplus*; two sorts of water-plantain, the sea-bindweed, *Soldanella marina.* Very large orach is found near RAMSGATE pier; very small hare's-ear near SANDWICH ferry Another fucus, called broad leaved indented sea-wreck, a species of that found in the SCILLY isles, of which they make kelp, and sea-holly, or eringo, *Eryngium marinum,* are very common. In the isle of THANET fennel grows naturally in the hedges, and so does rosemary, of which hedges are spoken of seventeen yards long, and five feet high.

Instead of enumerating these as matters of intelligence to you, I make your kindness the vehicle of imparting them to the public; you will set me right where I err, and I am sure add to my list any thing which comes within your knowledge.

Leicester-Place. Yours very sincerely,

NOV. 22, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER VII.

ROADS.

THOMAS SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE already intimated that it is my intention to take up general subjects occasionally. To do this, it will now and then be necessary to stop the course of my narrative, which would otherwise convey a kind of literary monotony, and wear too much the complexion of a diary. This, my first letter of that description, shall treat of roads, the inspection of which subject will come with more force and point, and receive stronger comparative illustration by this mode, than if I were merely to touch on advantages and abuses as they occurred to me on my different journies.

There were anciently but four roads throughout the kingdom, which were considered as the king's highways; all the rest, even to this time, have been made through the grounds of private persons. It is therefore, very easy to conceive, that it must have been a tremendous business for our forefathers to set out from CUMBERLAND with a determination to visit the LAND'S END in CORNWALL; and we cannot be surprized that men have, as we have been told, made their wills previous to such perilous undertakings. People always travelled, however, and transacted business at long distances; and I am sure it was practicable, however it might be inconvenient; for, at a venture, I can at this instant, point out turnpike roads as bad as any that were formerly endured, and a prohibition to pass through them, might by the life insurance offices, be introduced with as

great propriety as an exemption, as arson exempts the fire insurance offices from making good losses by fire; for he that is guilty of his own death certainly shortens his own life; and it is really little less than a contemplation of suicide, to pass roads that I can name, where extravagant turnpike tolls are exacted.

The fault therefore, lies in the Commissioners of turnpikes; but public works intended for public benefits, not only on this subject, but on every other, are too often converted into public abuses. Turnpike, if it implies any thing, implies safety. When it was not clear which was a foot-way, a pack-way, implying both a horse-way and a foot-way, or a cart-way, which three distinctions of roads were formerly exclusively understood; men knew what they had to encounter; they made the best of a bad bargain, and accommodated themselves to one another's convenience as well as circumstances would admit; and this, so obtained for mutual comfort, that, if on an emergency, travellers were obliged to pass through outlets to an open field, to avoid the natural confusion of clashing on a regular road, it was considered as law, even if the field were sown with corn, that such conduct was not a trespass.*

Every inconvenience of this description the turnpike road was to cure. I do not exactly recollect when its operation originally took place; indeed all legal encroachments, if I may so express myself, upon private property, were indemnified by a toll, and consequently in the nature of a turnpike; but I clearly remember the time before it had materially obtained in Hampshire, and I believe

* The right of what was called breaking the road, or obliging travellers to turn out of the way, was a very serious business, even in my recollection. It was considered as a point of right, that all who were travelling to hamlets and villages should give way to those who were going to cities, market towns, or other places of a superior description; but it would sometimes happen that the right of precedence was held in balance, and preponderated on neither side. Upon one of these occasions, a man is said to have taken out a newspaper, and begun to read it with great solemnity and deliberation, in continual hope, however, that the patience of his competitor would be tired out; but it so happened that the other had more of the stoic in him than had been apprehended; and, after he had very quiescently permitted the gazetteer to go through a considerable part of the paper, the snow at the same time lying on the ground, and a frosty air whistling about their ears, said, with his muscles perfectly unbent, "Sir, when you have done with that "paper I should take it as a favour if you would permit me to read it." There was more good sense in the traveller, who, finding himself in the same predicament, after having exhibited his pretensions and enumerated the ancient privileges to no purpose, cried out, "What then you will not break the road?" 'No,' answered the other, 'I will 'not.' "You will not! consider what are you about! you will not!" 'No.' "Why then I will."

the kingdom in general reaped very little benefit from it, till the act in the twenty-eighth of GEORGE the Second, passed in the year 1755, which was a consolidation of all former acts, and which was essentially confirmed by that, in the thirteenth year of his present Majesty, for reducing all turnpike acts into one act.

I know that, before 1755, there was no symptom of any thing like a turnpike between WINCHESTER and SOUTHAMPTON; and that when it came to be set about, the improvement was as efficacious as it was incredible. A few months completely altered the face of the country. It was the old ground young. Every thing wore a new aspect, and those chalky bottoms about WINCHESTER, which had been at times impassable; and those slippery declivities, through which travellers climbed with so much difficulty over St. GILES's and MAGDALEN hills, in the way to ALRESFORD, soon wore the appearance of a sober and gradual ascent scarcely perceptible to the traveller.

The traces of early recollection, should the objects be worthy attention, are strengthened rather than obliterated by time; a public benefit, therefore, of such magnitude, atchieved as it were, by magic, had a forcible effect on my youthful imagination; and, as far as my maturer judgment has given me capacity to notice, it has always occurred to me that no undertaking was ever prosecuted with more public spirit or fraught with more public advantage. The canals are another object of great national consequence; and, though they do not properly come under observation here, I cannot refrain from noticing how nobly they corroborate our commercial opulence.

Not a single reason can be given why the turnpike roads throughout the kingdom are not safe and pleasant; large sums are lavished for the purpose; expence may be commanded adequate to all emergencies; and this expence by law is levied on the public. Surveyors are required and enjoined to lay out all the monies collected *solely* to repair the roads. Where a sufficient quantity of stone, gravel, chalk, or other materials cannot easily be obtained, they are commanded to contract for them; and in this if they have any private interest, they incur a penalty, They are obliged to furnish foot causeways; and, that the work may be properly accelerated; heaps of stones, rubbish, or other materials, are not to

remain undispersed more than four days. Variety of other injunctions held out by this very comprehensive act, clearly shew that there cannot be a single excuse for neglect of this description, and no man in his senses will so far expose himself, as to offer a plea for such dishonesty and mismanagement, for it is no less.

I am not to learn, nay, I am forward to allow, that spirited individuals go great lengths for public accommodation; but the money is subscribed; it gets into the hands of treasurers, and from thence takes so many collateral branches, that it is at length sifted like meal. By this means abuses creep in, and what was intended in the beginning as a noble and useful undertaking, degenerates at last into a job. Turnpikes are farmed out and commuted for. I know this is tolerated by the act, but I am sorry for it. These are the loop-holes through which all the corruption insinuates itself.

It may be said, that it looks like litigating the question, to reason on these particulars, and that I can shew no law that is not violated by some of those very members who are entrusted by government with the power of carrying it into execution. This is, however, no excuse. Inn-keepers are enjoined by the law to vend none but wholesome liquors; but it is no argument, that because a man is in danger of intoxication from their deleterious mixtures, the trustees of turnpike roads are to finish the business by breaking his neck.

I have many worthy reasons to love and respect the inhabitants of DEVONSHIRE; but I shall ever execrate the roads in that county, at least those in the north, which in their proper place, I shall prove are shamefully neglected; the injustice of which conduct I shall make sufficiently manifest, by instancing, that those in CORNWALL, with less capability, are more safe and pleasant. The practicability of rendering roads easy and convenient, that were originally difficult and dangerous, is clearly proved by a description of those in Scotland; which, though formerly rugged and inaccessible, have by a laudable spirit and indefatigable perseverance, become, I should apprehend, the best in Europe; nor are those in CUMBERLAND and WESTMORELAND far behind hand.

Is it not a shame then, that in almost the centre of England, in a country marked by industry and opulence, where natural impediments do not exist, where the breed of cattle is so largely encouraged; where every acre of ground smiles with plenty and fertility: in LEICESTERSHIRE and NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, that roads are to be met with, which are a national disgrace? I cannot resist such an opportunity of instancing a most glaring confirmation of this fact.

I had occasion to travel from HUNTINGDON to LEICESTER, and I was informed that I might go by STILTON, STAMFORD, OAKHAM, and UPPINGHAM, or ST. NEOT'S and HIGHAM FERRERS, both of which I knew to be bad roads. I therefore chose that which passes through THRAPSTONE, KETTERING, and HARBOROUGH, and which was represented to me as the best of the three. I found it however the most dangerous I ever attempted. The worst parts of those in CORNWALL, where, from the nature of the materials, the sudden declivities, the unexpected moulderings of the rocks, the undermined masses of large roots, and other obstructions, which it requires the utmost industry to surmount, would for safety shame these roads, where no possible impediments occurred. This remark applies to a part of the road between THRAPSTON and KETTERING, and the whole of that between KETTERING and HARBOROUGH; the neglect of which is the more scandalous, because the road from HUNTINGDON to THRAPSTON, where the materials are exactly the same, was perfectly safe and pleasant.

The danger from this abominable road is the prodigious depth of the ruts, which might be remedied with very little labour, for the bottom is perfectly firm and sound. But I shall more particularly describe how curiously I was situated. In the space of eleven miles, between KETTERING and HARBOROUGH, I was obliged, as were my family and servants, to walk five; and, lest the carriages should have overset, every individual of us, were occasionally under the necessity of giving assistance to keep them upon their wheels; and all this on a turnpike road. A pleasant thing to be lured to probable destruction by an invitation that holds out a promise to accommodate travellers! Were it not called a turnpike, passengers would at once know what they might probably incur, and it would be at their own risk if they thought proper to explore a doubtful passage in order to save a few miles.

As it is, in the midst of your apprehensions you are called upon for a toll; and, though you are informed that the road will be worse as you get on, there is a pompous display of the only terms on which you are permitted to pass; and, if you think proper to refuse your compliance with these terms, under the idea that there is not a mutual obligation, you may be legally, without further question, taken before a magistrate. Thus was I compelled, either to risk my neck or walk five miles, indeed, it was every where dangerous, over a road the caricature of ploughed ground, and all this to accommmodate a set of men, who undertake a public office, and neither fulfil the trust themselves nor suffer others to do it for them. I must not forget to notice that as I passed through the gate, I told the woman, with an appearance of gravity and earnestness, that I would certainly indict the road; to which she answered with an air of perfect simplicity, "I wish to God "you would, Sir, and then I might stand a chance of saving up my rent."

I pique myself on being moderate in my remarks on public conduct, but in the present case were I even so inclined, it is impossible to exaggerate. The day on which I was coaxed into this curious dilemma was very fine, the roads were perfectly dry, and nothing could possibly impede their being not only passable, but sound and safe, but dishonest neglect.

I shall be answered that there is a remedy for all this; that the more opulent and powerful the individual who either directly or indirectly violates the law in this case, the more reprehensible the conduct, and the greater his public spirit who forces him to be amenable to those laws which it is his duty, both for his own proper honour, and as an object of worthy imitation, peculiarly to obey and enforce; but who does not see that this public spirit would be considered as impertinence and officiousness; that general justice may be construed into local innovation; and that, while the surrounding neighbourhood, particularly opulent farmers, consciously wink at the fraud, the conditions imposed by government may be violated not only with impunity but with convenience? In short, what is every body's business is nobody's business; and who would be mad enough to oppose upon their own ground, a powerful set of men, who have a whole vicinity at their beck and call?

I will be candid enough to allow that the great roads are not liable to all these objections, though I insist that many of the duties I have mentioned are too frequently violated even as to them; but, if they were not, that a proportionable degree of inconvenience may not be wanted to keep the perverse spirit of mankind in its customary routine, the effects of those advantages we are permitted to enjoy we take care as much as possible to obviate by annoying each other. Vainly may turnpike trustees and commissioners of the highway be looked upon as kings of the roads, while drivers of flying waggons and crazy dung carts arrogate a right to be viceroys over them. The latter, in particular, are a most scandalous annoyance. Their duty is to be at the heads of their horses, and they incur a penalty, even though there be no chance of an accident, for deviating from that station. Are they ever in that situation? Not once out of ten times. As they generally return from market half drunk, they teach their horses to walk exactly in the middle of the road, that they themselves may sleep in safety. Thus, unless the road should happen to be so wide that three carriages may easily pass a-breast, every person who comes by in a carriage incurs some risk. Should he be disposed to dispute the pass, after enduring a comfortable portion of blackguard and indecent abuse, especially if there should happen to be ladies, he is perhaps permitted to proceed; and, if this should happen without the loss of a wheel, or some such matter, he may consider himself very fortunate. But it is really more than a joke, for the plain and serious truth is, that infinite mischief would happen in the course of every day, especially within a few miles of LONDON, were it not for the temper and dexterity of gentlemens' coachmen, who find it useless to contend with such wretches. That they may be informed against is ridiculous; the penalty is ten shillings for the man, or twenty for the master, by whom perhaps he is abetted in this lawless conduct*.

* I shall give an instance of this, which I should hardly be induced to do were it not a very strong one, in a circumstance that happened to myself. I was coming to town about ten years ago, and, in that part of the private road beyond ACTON, that leads to HANGER-HILL, a dung cart was coming towards me, as usual, in the middle of the road, with a ploughshare lashed at the side of it, a tremendous and warlike idea. I gave directions to be driven as much as possible to the left hand, which orders were obeyed so punctually, that I therefore incurred an alternative danger of being overturned into a pond. In this situation, giving my antagonist every possible chance of road law, I stopt and waited his approach, and though he might have gone clear perhaps four or five feet, he thought proper, as he afterwards said by way of a bit of fun, to run against the carriage, and injure it very materially. I very quietly got out, and without exchanging a single word of altercation with the man, took a memorandum of the name

Their is one species of monkey like wantonness practised which I defy any man to account for. I mean defacing direction posts and milestones. I took notice that in a given distance of a hundred and fifteen miles, I found only eleven milestones, on which the inscriptions were legible. It is very easy to conceive that a man may be wrought to defraud the public or individuals to appease his hunger, or indeed any other appetite; but, as all kinds of vice generally originate in indolence, it is particularly curious that human beings shonld take pains almost equal

upon the cart, and, after availing myself of the good offices of those who were at hand, one of whom, a gentleman's bailiff, gave me his name, and assured me he should be happy to appear against the owner of the cart, if I thought proper to bring an action. I got very slowly and in some danger to town. I sent my carriage to the coachmaker, and the next day my attorney wrote a letter to the farmer, to say that I should expect satisfaction for the injury I had sustained: the farmer called on me, acknowledged that I had been very ill treated, said he should be happy to pay the coachmaker's bill, and any other expences, and if I insisted on it, the carter should publicly beg my pardon in the papers. Seeing so proper a disposition in the man, I consented to let the matter drop upon his paying the coachmaker: this he did: called on me again; thanked me for my lenity, and assured me that his man was very much ashamed of his bad conduct. Will it be credited, that in less than a week after this I was served by this very carter with a copy of a writ for an assault? I laughed at it of course, and let it go to a trial, perfectly satisfied that, as the accusation was completely false, I should have an opportunity of shewing the delinquency of this sturdy crew, for it was evident the man was abetted by the master. This action was brought in the Marshalsea, and the damages were so laid that it could not be removed into the King's Bench, otherwise I have no doubt but it would have had a very different issue. The trial came on before a very sapient judge, who indulged himself in a long dissertation on the nature of perjury, in which, as Mrs. HONEYCOMB says of her husband, he happened to be wrong in every particular. The carter's advocate discharged his duty in the usual style; he was very witty and very impertinent. Three witnesses were produced, who swore that I came out of my carriage and violently assaulted the man, one of whom was a brother carter; another a woman, who to my knowledge was six miles off when the circumstance was said to have happened, and who afterwards, when she thought herself upon her death bed, sent to implore my succour, and to beg my forgiveness for this perjury; and the third was my friend, the gentleman's bailiff, who so officiously assured me that he would appear and do me justice, all which kindness, upon a very close cross examination, he unfortunately forgot. To this I had only to oppose the evidence of my servant and another person, who simply related my determined forbearance and that I merely took the name on the cart. Here were three witnesses against two certainly, but the contradiction and prevarication of the perjurers, who could not even swear to my person, though I was close by them in the court, and other circumstances, particularly, the consciousness of the master that the man had assaulted me, and the bearing of that whole fact, made the matter to the eye of common sense as clear as light; but the judge thought proper to be blind the wrong way. The leg of mutton jurors, as I understand the jurors in that court are called, thought proper to do as they were bid, and twenty shillings were the damages denounced against me, which, with the expences amounted to fourteen pounds. I left the court, with solemnly assuring my opponent's counsel, that the whole was an instance of the most wicked depravity; that those wretches were perjured, but that the business seemed to have gone according to the practice of the court; for I had patiently listened that morning to two and twenty trials, every one of which had been gained by the plaintiff. I shall finish this anecdote by saying, that there was a dinner provided for the witnesses; that they were dressed out in favours; and that I saw them extended in a field, when I passed home in the evening, dead drunk.

to industry to destroy what has been established by general consent for general convenience, I cannot see which way it can be a satisfaction, or to whom an advantage, not even to milestone makers, otherwise one might conceive how it might be connived at by them, upon the same principle that tallow-chandlers insist upon illuminations, and glaziers break windows upon a rejoicing night.

These, however, are not all the instances of inconvenience to which travellers had better, for their peace and often their safety, submit. Imposition of every description they must lay their account to; but this subject is a kind of offset from inns, which I shall go into in a general letter to our friend KING, after I have returned with you to town from SUSSEX. Having therefore already drawn this letter into more length from zeal, than perhaps I ought from prudence, I shall content myself with noticing one more breach of the laws, and this is crouding the outsides of carriages. I counted a swarm of passengers on the outside of a long coach, a kind of vehicle which in HAMPSHIRE they call a slap-bang, to the number of seventeen. In the inside there were eight, and thus did four horses, so jaded, so wore down, so heart-broken, that it would have been mercy to have put them out of existence foam under the lash of the whip, in the action of drawing at the rate of seven miles an hour, within the most probable calculation, counting carriage, passengers, and luggage, at least two tons and a half. The coachman upon being told by a turnpike man, whose duty it was, by the way, to enforce the law, that he would certainly be informed upon, to use his own cant, answered drily, "Hold your damned nonsense; 'tis all gammon!"

If, however, there are inconveniences in travelling, that wholesome and desirable amusement is certainly replete with pleasures; and, indeed, if a judgment were to be formed alone by the astonishing concourse of persons, who in the

It is impossible to resist a relation of the sequel to this business. The farmer's man had of course, as most farmer's men have some insight into the doctrine of keeping wheat back nefariously from market; but whether, however he might have a taste for law-suits, he disliked monopoly, or thought it a pity that the corn should be so withheld, he certainly purloined a quantity from time to time, which, according to common usage, he sold to the miller. The master detected him, grew exasperated, and at last this very favourite, the participator of his professional secrets, was whipt by his door at the cart's tail. I have given this story circumstantially, because there is a great deal to be learnt from it; and, that it is true, a whole neighbourhood can witness.

highest style of opulence and magnificence, either for profit or pleasure, spread in all directions throughout this kingdom, its inhabitants must be unequivocally pronounced to be the richest both in property and consequence in the world; but I am preparing a general letter on Tours to our friend WOODFALL, in which observations of this description will more properly come.

To facilitate the satisfaction and accommodation of the traveller, the press is continually teeming with information. Itineraries and road books are constantly published, and every one has pretty well executed its promises. The most material objection against them is their complexity. Itineraries, in particular, are in their nature obliged to be voluminous, and road books, simplify them how you may, involve such an eternal necessity for one reference after another, that during the action of a carriage, the value of the intelligence, which is always wanted on the spur of the moment, is sure to be gone before you have time to acquire the intelligence itself.

PATERSON'S book is certainly considered, and with reason, as a sterling and valuable production. It is, however, very materially improved upon by CARY, who, in addition to the advantage of being more recent in his intelligence, has struck out into many branches of observation that better satisfy the enquirer. It would be a very great acquisition to these publishers if they would ascertain the number of miles from the different finger-posts to the towns they point to. This duty ought to be performed by the trustees of turnpikes and commissioners of the roads; and, indeed, about once out of forty times it is actually done. It is astonishing how this simple amendment would benefit the traveller and this intelligence might very easily be procured from riders to great commercial houses, perhaps more to a certainty, paradox as it may appear, than by surveying or measuring.

Having been myself a pretty accurate observer, I could certainly suggest many hints to both of these gentlemen, for I have no idea that either of them has a right to consider the subject as exclusively his own, and Lord LOUGHBOROUGH did no more than exercise his usual penetration and good sense in saying, that

they were both works of public utility, and therefore they ought to stand or fall by their respective merits; and, as I have never been backward in manifesting a warm desire of contributing to the pleasure of the public, I here promise that any communication to their advantage in my power, is heartily at their service. At present I shall only say that the more they simplify their intelligence the better.

As a knowledge of the distances from place to place is a very essential matter for the regulation of the time, the pursuits and the horses of travellers, I shall whenever I finish my observations on a particular county, insert a table, in which all the material distances may be seen at one view. I must premise, however, that the reader is not to expect any thing like accurate distance. It has not been ascertained at all points by any body. One man measures from the stones' end, and another from the general post-office, and always correctly. What then? Scarcely shall those surveyors return home but some new cut across the country shall be thought expedient, and all their calculations are deranged. If the roads were to be surveyed four times a year, the returns could not be every where accurate. This, however, is no where a reproach, for all alterations of this description are amendments.

Another circumstance as to distances, is the charge for post-horses. My calculation has been that in every eighty miles you pay eighty-six, and thus the inn at which you put up, and where you naturally expect the best intelligence, is the very place where you will get the worst. Thus I finish my letter, referring you to the table on the other side, by way of postscript, and assuring you that I am,

My dear Sir,

Leicester-Place. Your faithful and obliged humble Servant,

Nov. 25, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

	romley	anterbury	hatham	artford	)eal	)over	aversham	olkstone	ravesend	reenwich	Iythe	.ydd	Maidstone	Margate	Ramsgate	Rochester	New Romney	andwich	evenoaks	ittingbourne	troud	enterden	unbridge	unbridge-Wells	ondon
* Tues. Ashford to	54	14	29	44	32	26	14	17	37	54	12	24	20	32	33	29	21	26	41	20	31	13	34	39	58
Thurs. Bromley to		54	34	12	72	71	48	66	19	7	61	67	31	69	70	33	66	66	14	42	32	51	30	35	9
* + W. & S. Canterb. to			25	42	18	16	10	18	34	52	17	31	29	17	18	26	27	13	50	16	27	34	43	48	56
Sat. Chatham to				17	13	42	15	33	10	27	41	53	10	42	43	1	50	37	23	9	2	30	21	26	31
Sat. Dartford to					59	58	30	61	7	10	56	62	24	57	58	16	59	58	14	26	15	48	21	26	14
* Thurs. Deal to						9	28	18	51	57	23	35	46	17	16	42	32	5	66	34	43	38	44	49	72
* + W. & S. Dover to							27	9	50	56	14	26	45	26	25	41	23	14	65	33	41	37	53	58	71
* W. & S. Faversham to								28	24	42	26	38	20	17	18	16	35	22	42	6	17	27	34	39	46
Thurs. Folkstone to									52	69	9	21	38	44	41	44	18	23	48	34	45	29	43	50	74
* W. & S. Gravesend to										17	48	60	16	50	51	8	57	50	20	19	10	38	21	26	22
W. & S. Greenwich to											65	69	33	68	69	26	68	65	23	36	25	56	30	35	72
* + Sat. Hythe to												12	33	33	28	40	9	20	52	33	29	24	41	46	70
Lydd to -													32	46	47	41	3	32	64	45	42	16	42	43	71
* + Th. Maidstone to														46	47	9	29	42	20	18	10	21	13	18	35
W. & S. Margate to															5	43	43	9	66	33	44	57	59	64	72
W. & S. Ramsgate to																44	40	8	62	34	45	56	58	63	73
* + Frid. Rochester to																	38	43	22	9	1	29	21	26	30
* + Th. New Romney to																		29	61	45	41	15	40	45	71
* + W. & S. Sandwich to																			68	28	44	46	61	66	68
Sat. Sevenoaks to																				34	23	32	7	12	24
Sittingbourne to																					11	31	28	33	40
Stroud to																						30	59	64	29
Frid. Tenterden to																							26	31	56
Tunbridge-Wells to																								5	30
Frid. Tunbridge to																									35

A table of the distances and all their possible bearings of the principal towns in Kent.—Corporation towns are thus distinguished *; boroughs thus +; and the market towns have the initials of the days placed before them.

Exclusive of the above indexes, this county returns two members, and the town of QUEENBOROUGH two, making in the whole eighteen.

LETTER VIII.

THROUGH SUSSEX TO LONDON.

THOMAS SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

My account of Sussex will be very concise, having traversed but a small part of it, and that at two or three opportunities, none of which took up much time. As I generally, however, inquire with avidity, so the few particulars I have been able to pick up may not, in a relative light, be without interest.

It will be necessary so far, to abide by my usual regularity in the introduction of counties, as to notice, that Sussex, or Suthsex, which signifies the country of the South Saxons, is bounded on the north by Surry and Kent; on the east by Kent and the British Channel; on the south by the latter only, and on the west by Hampshire. It extends sixty-five miles in length, from east to west; thirty miles in breadth from north to south, and contains a circumference of a hundred and seventy miles.

Sussex is divided into six rapes, which are subdivided into sixty-five hundreds. It is seated in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Chichester. It contains one city, sixteen market towns, and the two ancient boroughs of Bramber and Seaford. It consists altogether of three hundred and forty-two parishes, and sends twenty-eight members to parliament.

The principal rivers in SUSSEX, are the Aran, the Ouse, the Ardur, the Rother, and the Lavant. The Aran, which in 1733 had a new outlet cut for it by act of parliament, by which means vessels of about a hundred tons burden sail up to ARUNDEL, rises in ST. LEONARD'S forest, near HORSHAM, and after running a few miles westward, turns south, and, passing by ARUNDEL falls into the British channel. This river is in some parts famous for trouts and eels; and, it is said that it contains a particular weed which fattens mullets, and gives them a peculiarly delicious flavour. I cannot confirm this, and, indeed, I am inclined to discredit it. The mullets at ARUNDEL and at PORTSMOUTH are very good, but by no means so finely flavoured as those at PLYMOUTH, which are immediately caught out of the sea and this seems to prove that mullets require no particular cooping or feeding.

The Ouse has two branches. One rises in the forest of WORTH, to the north of CUCKFIELD, and the other in the forest of ST. LEONARD'S, where also issues the spring of the Adur; and thus these three rivers which I have mentioned, have virtually one source. The Ouse and the Adur are blended together; and, passing by LEWES, fall into the British channel, and form the harbour called NEWHAVEN, about seven miles to the south by east of that town. That branch of the Adur which makes its own channel, passes by STEYNING, and is also called BRAMBER water; after which it becomes very narrow, and falls into the sea about three miles to the west of BRIGHTELMSTONE.

The Rother has its source at ROTHERFIELD; but it soon branches into KENT, and falls at length into the channel near RYE. The Lavant is small, but it is remarkable for almost surrounding the city of CHICHESTER, for being very low when other rivers are very full, and for producing a remarkable fine breed of lobsters. The Ashburn, the Aster, and the Cuckmere, are inferior rivers confined within the limits of SUSSEX, and which fall into the channel; but, from the nature of the shore, there are but few ports, for it is rocky, and the south-west winds are continually augmenting the danger to which vessels are exposed by the shelves and the sand banks.

My excursion through KENT having taken exactly five weeks, I arrived from TENTERDEN at BATTLE, on Sunday the thirteenth of May. This place is remark-

able for the battle from which it takes its name, which insured to WILLIAM the Norman the crown of ENGLAND; for its manufactory of gunpowder; and I believe for very little else, except the abbey, which is a very extensive building. At HASTINGS, I looked more about me; and that I might not confound an account of the Cinque Ports, of which it is proper I should make some mention, I deferred speaking of them, till I had an opportunity of noticing them under the article HASTINGS, that town standing at the head of them.

Before the conquest, DOVER, SANDWICH and ROMNEY, were for distinction called the ports, but WILLIAM added to make them five, HASTINGS and HITHE; and, afterwards annexed to them WINCHELSEA and RYE, giving as it is supposed the supremacy to HASTINGS, from his partiality to the spot where generated his expectations of gaining the crown. I must not attempt to go into minute history, and shall therefore only say, that those five ports to which WINCHELSEA and RYE were added, which places were at the same time allowed some inferior privileges, being so situated as to command a view of the coast of FRANCE, and in consequence, proper to be the guardians of their own land, were given, to encourage their watchfulness of the British channel, and the southern and eastern coats of the kingdom, many privileges of a more dignified nature than ports of any other description. The most honorable of these is, that the barons of these ports and two ancient towns, have the distinction of bearing the canopies over the king and queen at the coronation, and to dine with the king, sitting at the first table on his right hand.

A prodigious number of other privileges were granted them, many of which however, are now out of usage, in consideration of the eminent services they had rendered the kingdom during the incursions of foreign enemies, for which purpose they furnished among them fifty-seven ships, which were called the Ports' navy. This navy in 1406 took one hundred and twenty French merchant ships, and a number of other exploits are recorded of them, to shew how justly they deserved the honours and immunities with which they were dignified.

The approach to HASTINGS is rich and picturesque; and, as I took a sketch of its effect, and have since painted a picture from it, the subject will make one of the plates in this work.* The rides and walks are various and romantic. New houses are building every day to let out in lodgings; bathing machines accumulate, to the use of which the clean and level sands are very favourable; and, though it professes more and more to vie with BRIGHTHELMSTONE, it is the particular boast of this place, at least so I was told two years ago, that strict order and decorum are carefully observed, and that licentiousness and profligacy are there utterly unknown, a flattering dream, from which in proportion as it is resorted to they will probably gradually awake.

The market is a very plentiful one. It is at times well stocked with fish, and in particular with a species of prawns, called by them pandalls, which are very delicious. The castle is an ugly ruin. It took up anciently an immense track of ground, but there is no account of its origin. This object, however, as well as the priory, the White Rock, a fall of water, called the Old Roar, and several variegations of the different prospects about HASTINGS, constitute a number of particulars, which add beauty to the scenic effects of nature; but the best prospect is from FAIRLIGHT DOWN, whence over BEACHY HEAD may be distinctly seen the coast of FRANCE, and whence may be counted RYE, WINCHELSEA, LYDD, NEW ROMNEY, TENTERDEN, several villages, and the lighthouse upon DUNGENESS Point.

I left HASTINGS on the Tuesday, and pursued the road along the coast to PEVENSEY, a place formerly remarkable as a city of some opulence, as the place where WILLIAM the Norman landed in 1066, and for its castle, which stood upon an astonishing extent of ground, but which now is a shapeless ruin. EAST-BOURNE was my next stage, which is in itself a poor uncomfortable village, but rendered busy in the summer by company that resort to it for sea bathing. It is a kind of offset from BRIGHTHELMSTONE, and no doubt, but if a proper culture continues,

* A view of the approach to HASTINGS, Plate 2, will come in at this page. It is about a mile from the town. Not so high up the hill as to make a bird's eye view, nor so low as to shew the objects above you. It is certainly picturesque, and gives correctly the effect of an English sea-port.

it will hereafter bring forth as good fruit as the parent plant. BEACHY HEAD here presents itself with majestic malignity. Like a cunning beast of prey, it crouches on the land, the readier to seize its victims at sea. I contemplate the idea with horror, for I was once fated to keep it in view at sea for more than forty hours, when to have approached would have been inevitable destruction.

Over a dreary and shelterless down, I next proceeded to LEWES; a place most romantically situated. The gentlemens' seats and gardens on the sides of the hills have a very curious and entertaining effect. The prospect from the wind-mill is of prodigious extent. It has been said to exceed CLEVES, NIMEGUEN, the castle of NUREMBURG, and ST. MICHAEL'S DEL BOSCO, in ITALY. Thirty miles on one side appears the sea, and for fifty on the other you see a continuation of objects which terminate with BANSTEAD DOWNS. The country, however, is dreary and bleak, and I have considered it as a matter of wonder, which nothing can solve but the absurdity of fashionable propensities, that the sons and daughters of folly, whose actions need the thickest shelter, should expose themselves the more by resorting to places where there is no shelter at all.

As I did not revisit KENT, I have already compleated my account of it, but having in the summer of 1799 taken another and a longer tour in SUSSEX, it will be better to let my observations at that time stand over till their proper season. I shall now, therefore, imimate my expedition in my journey from LEWES to LONDON, where I arrived on Saturday the nineteenth of May; and, after some recapitulatory matter, proceed to give an account to your brother, Dr. CRUWYS, Mr. PENNICK, Colonel GEORGE, and some other friends, of my journey to the LAND'S END, and my return from thence by a circuitous route to LEICESTER-PLACE.

Thanking you for your patience, and requesting you will favour me with your remarks. I am,

My dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, Most truly yours,

NOV. 26, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER IX.

TOURS.

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I CONGRATULATE myself that in common with the rest of my friends, you approve of my determination not to enumerate particulars, or mention men and facts in the course of my book, so as to give my observations an appearance of the censure of a spy, or the praise of a sycophant; but to let every thing have a general bearing, so that circumstances may find of themselves their fair weight and value, rather in their effect as a mass, than comparatively in parts; a mode of conveying truth which will hit every where, yet neither flatter nor wound any man or set of men exclusively.

Tours, and their tendency form the subject of this letter, which will by no means however, militate against my plan; for, though I shall be obliged to mention particular men, they stand already committed, and have acknowledged a right in the public to canvass their opinions; and if such of these gentlemen as are living, or any champion of those who are no more, should consider me of sufficient consequence to make my book an object of their animadversion, so they treat me with the same candour, they are welcome to use me with the same freedom.

Tours are taken either for profit or pleasure, or both. The prodigious number of travellers who disperse themselves throughout the three kingdoms, and whom

I have described in another place as so beneficial to society, that they circulate British manufactures to every part of the habitable globe, promote their own concerns, and advantage mankind. The fashionable tourists, who, out of curiosity, visit lakes, spas, and sea-ports, benefit those at least with whom they leave their money, and in whose hands it is perhaps as worthily deposited as it was in their own. The great pleasure, however, of these and all others, is the communication on their return of what they have seen and observed; and, as few objects wear at all times the same aspect, as some view every thing through a flattering medium, others through a jaundiced one; so are things magnified or depreciated, and thus has exaggeration been constantly considered as the traveller's talent.

To put all this to rights, as it should seem, have men gone, like moderators in an argument, on these expeditions expressly to procure and promulgate such impartial and dispassionate intelligence as may serve for a criterion, by way of regulating the public judgment. Few, however, have attained this desirable end. Some have proved that their abilities were unequal to the task; others have had neither time nor opportunity to obtain the requisite intelligence; many have been so dazzled with the splendour of nature, that they have found themselves at a loss to give it an adequate description; and not a few, who have gone to investigate customs and manners, have returned contented with a small number of uncertain local opinions, which they have mistaken for facts; and yet this has not deterred any of them from publishing their remarks, or the public from reading them.

My observations here apply of course, to such as have written general tours. Those men who have made journies and tours for the sake of giving moral, professional, or even fanciful instruction, have generally acquitted themselves with ability; but they have always taken a latitude beyond fact itself, though they have stuck close to the operation of fact. STERNE delighted the susceptible, I had almost said the sensual; PRATT, much more worthily, the grave and the moral; GROSSE has given some delicious moments to the antiquarian; BURNEY has enlightened musical amateurs; and JOHNSON, whose spots, however, have been a good deal detected by his satelite, BOSWELL, has illuminated, if the task were worth while, all the cynics.

Thus has STERNE been censured for stamping a false and frivolous taste in minds made of weaker and more superficial materials than his own; thus have the reflections of PRATT, with all their sweetness and delicacy, their truth and beauty, been considered as formal and precise, and compared to HARVEY in the flower-garden; thus has GROSSE been called a mere gruper into antiquity, an investigator of eliptic arches, Saxon barrows, rusty coins, and Roman bricks; thus has BURNEY become the laughing-stock of JOEL COLLYER, and JOHNSON the contempt of all men of candour, except the Scotch, who admire his abilities, have taken advantage of his advice, and have pitied him for the sourness and rancour of his remarks, which cannot injure them because they are not true. To prove the validity of my own observations, I shall hereafter be under an obligation to shew that those of the Doctor are full of purposed and elected fallacies, engendered perhaps on that very bank in the Highlands, where he felt himself so out of humour, and where he tells us he conceived the first thought of his narration.

Strict fidelity I consider as the first requisite in those works which are generally denominated Tours; but this is not all: there must be fancy, discrimination, taste, and a variety of other embellishments woven into the piece, of which fidelity is only the ground work. Were not this the case, an author would be reduced to a mere reader at a printing-office, who goes over every word and point, that the page may be correct, and at last knows nothing of the subject.

The writer in this way, who has most critical fidelity, but he certainly has more than that, is PENNANT. Nothing seems to have escaped him. The pains he has taken are infinite, and his researches have been full of labour and attention; but he is particular to preciseness; his objects seem distended on the pin of a microscope, and after we have agonized our sight, we lose general beauty in particular deformity.

PENNANT, however, has in his tour given to the world a very valuable work; and all those who love description and fact better than animadversion and deduction, will not fail to remain his constant admirers. He is in his way, a kind of RAPIN, and has every thing of the correct, and nothing of the fanciful. Men of

taste, however, with all their latitude, would probably have preferred an imitation of GIBBON or HUME.

There have been many admirable works in this way, as far as they extended. MATON'S Western Tour is a neat intelligent production; and GILPIN has manifested great critical nicety and judgment, within the boundary that he prescribed himself. HUTCHINSON'S excurtion is a faithful delineation of particulars in the miniature way. Dr. BROWN has written some letters upon this subject, and these are ingenious of course.

Dr. GARNETT'S late tour is now very much read, and of course, with pleasure. Any production of a man who has been called upon without any recommendation but uncommon talents, to fill a high situation in an institution calculated for the best purposes of scientific benevolence, must naturally excite laudable curiosity in readers of discernment. I had the pleasure of receiving great attention from him at GLASGOW, at the time he was preparing this work for the press; while the melancholy cause of his tour, which he had vainly taken to dissipate his unhappiness, was still warm in his imagination, which is not, I believe, yet eradicated, and which, perhaps, might have had a fatal effect on his health, had he not been called to other scenes, and other pursuits.

I believe it has been your own remark, that there never was seen more of that particular modesty, which seldom fails to accompany genuine merit, than in Dr. GARNETT. With what pleasure the other night, did our friend SHELDON, who is no less sincere than warm, discerning than just, speak his eulogium. He has known him but little, and yet what a catalogue of talents he has found in him; nothing can exceed the ingenuity of the discovery, but the generosity of proclaiming it. I know nothing so noble. How honourable would it be to merit and to human nature, were such conduct oftener practised! but I am indulging myself in remark, when I ought to keep to narration.

Dr. GARNETT'S tour embraces but few objects, but they are interesting, and some of them full of novelty. The description of STAFFA is very valuable; and

those professional remarks which he has made, do credit to his judgment and his skill; but, I shall address some of my letters to him in the course of this work, and particularly when I come to speak of those parts of SCOTLAND, which, by his advice I visited, and of which he has himself spoken; it will then be time enough to enlarge on this subject.

It is now so much a fashion to visit the lakes, as they are generally called in ENGLAND, and the lochs in SCOTLAND, that to notice tourists of this description, would be as tiresome as they are themselves. Beside, the swarm is so large, it is impossible to enumerate them; and the diaries and drawings, which from indolence or incapacity are begun and never finished, would be no trifling acquisition to the fashionable manufacturers who renovate paper. Some, however, who have written in this way, have left behind them as valuable morsels, as those specks of jewelry which are now and then discovered in veins of marble, or mines of ore.

I know nothing more delicious for what it is, than MASON'S description of the small cascade at RYDAL. To say the truth, MASON observes upon nature with more of a painter's judgment than GRAY. There is less of the frenzy necessary in descriptions of this kind, than the fidelity of the poet. We may fancy CAUCASUS, IDA, and OLYMPUS, but we see SKIDDAW; and the merest CUMBERLAND peasant can detect the smallest deviation from truth. I shall expatiate more upon this when I get into CUMBERLAND.

The poetry sported by ladies and gentlemen, who, like adventurers on the stage, have exhibited themselves, being their first appearance in that character, has been out of all quantity and measure. The window panes and the provincial newspapers have been full of it; but the subject is now drawn to the dregs. I shall, therefore, only add a few remarks on what are called guides, which after all, if they had not in them so much of 'walk in and see the lions,' are by no means a bad species of tour, for they boast authorities at least.

Guides are often well written. By the way, while it is in my memory, I cannot avoid noticing, that the most indifferent book of this description is, The CAMBRIDGE GUIDE, which, though written by a master of arts, is every where dull, and in some places not grammatical; an error not always to be cavilled at, but certainly unpardonable upon classic ground. The best authors flounder in this way; nay, indeed, the point is not accurately settled. If Dr. JOHNSON had said in CAMBRIDGE, perhaps, because he did not understand perspective, that the churches as they receded from him grew less, nothing could have redeemed his reputation. Nay, as the very spot which generated this retrogade idea, is actually classic ground, in the opinions of the Scotch, nothing could save him as it is, but his infidelity as to the poems of OSSIAN.

The worst quality in guides is their exaggeration, and yet one scarcely knows how to find fault with it. Certainly the objects may possess all the beauty they describe; but it requires so many adventitious circumstances to shew it to advantage, that upon any given tour three fourths of their descriptions turn out to be false. In confirmed fine weather all their Niagaras disappear. and in a serene day the mountains are no longer cloud capt, which is really against the rules; for what are rocks without a cataract, or SKIDDAW stript of its night-cap? On the contrary, in hazy and drizzly weather, hills no longer rise above hills; the dizzy prominence and the yawning abyss are alike confounded in vapour and mist, and the traveller may explore a glen by the side of HELVELYN or BEN LEDI, as unconscious of the height and magnitude of these natural wonders, as if he were caught in a shower upon SALISBURY Plain. These guide writers, therefore, should qualify their promises, like KATTERFELTO; who, with all his quackery, never affected to exhibit the extraordinary powers of his solar microscope, except when the sun shone.

If these observations are founded in truth, there is merit and defect in every thing that has been written on this subject, which assertion, indeed, may extend to all subjects whatever; for the more ingenuity is exerted the less writers are inclined to copy, and yet truth has but one side; and thus, perhaps, I am as much exposed to my own objections as others are. All that can be said is, that, though

nature has but one face, those who pourtray her may take the licence to vary its attitudes, to chuse their own lights and shadows, to express the lady's different humours, to take her smiling, pouting, spirited, languid, complacent, turbulent, and give all the varieties of LE BRUN, and yet infringe no admitted privilege. For my own part, I have been accustomed to think with fidelity at least; and, therefore, if I produce a caricature instead of a portrait, the fault will be in the failure of ability, not in the want of intention.

I pique myself at any rate on having studied my subject; and, as I love originality, I have done this in a new way, which in general I have found pretty successful. The method of obtaining intelligence, which most naturally suggests itself is an enquiry on the spot, but this is a wrong idea. In LONDON, for instance, do people know their next door neighbours? Do they go to see the lions in the TOWER; or the tombs in WESTMINSTER ABBEY? No such thing; and the case is similar in other places, and all this is common from the restless inquisitiveness natural to mankind. What we may easily know, we think lightly of ourselves, and take but little pains in search of for the information of others; whereas, every thing recommended by the charm of novelty, we never rest till we are in possession of. Thus you get half intelligence, which misleads more than no intelligence at all, if you enquire of those who ought to know best.

A firm conviction of this obtained by finding that the most faithful intelligence I ever gained on certain points concerning ENGLAND, was in FRANCE; and, though this was four and twenty years ago, and the particulars of this information will serve me but little in my present pursuit, yet the essence and the bearing of it will be of considerable assistance to me.

Armed as I am with materials so long and so far sought for, so considered, so weighed, and so digested; determined neither to be warped by partialities nor prejudices; watched and encouraged by kind and intelligent friends; and animated by every inducement to secure my reputation, I shall go fearlessly forward; and, whether I exceed or fall short of others, I shall at any rate have done as much as they, upon the principle of the abstemious man, who, being reproach-

ed by the drunkard, replied that he was as great a toper as himself, for that like him, he had drunk as much as he could.

I am, with great pride at your high opinion of my general plan, and many thanks for your strictures on it,

My dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, Yours very truly

Dec. 26, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

TOUR TO THE LAND'S END.

LETTER X.

FROM LONDON TO BRIDPORT.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

HAVING settled preliminaries and received your hearty good wishes as to my publication, and kind promises to lend me every assistance in your power, I shall extend my first idea of addressing to you that part only of my tour which relates to DEVONSHIRE, and beg the favour of your company occasionally, from the time I left LONDON till my return.

As I shall continually traverse the roads near the capital in the course of my tour; and as those objects nearest home, from our familiarity with them, awaken less curiosity than those at a greater distance, it will be sufficient for my purpose at present to notice, that on Thursday the 31st of May, 1798, I left LEICESTER-PLACE, and passing by the loiterers of KENSINGTON, the *rus in urbe* gardeners, dashers, and retired office-clerks of HAMMERSMITH, the holiday-makers of TURNHAM-GREEN, the French emigrants of every place, and the wretched pity moving horses, that tug the crazy stages from HYDE-PARK Corner to KEW-BRIDGE, every effort a step towards their last homes, I rejoiced when I had left tedious BRENTFORD behind me; and continued through neat SMALLBERRY-GREEN, and bustling HOUNSLOW, till at length, after contemplating the dreadful profligacy and degeneracy of human nature, upon a view of HAINES on his gibbet, who seemed as if waiting

for his present companion, I found myself in excellent cue for a dinner, which on my arrival, I ordered at the Bush a STAINES.

I slept at BAGSHOT, where they brag of their mutton; but I could not help setting the landlord to rights, by telling him there is no such thing, for that the mutton so esteemed by the gentry under the appellation of BAGSHOT mutton, is fed upon the HAMPSHIRE DOWNS. It puts me in mind of the vaunting their bread at CALAIS, which, when I was there, was mixed with a sour leven from the lees of wine, and intolerably gritty, from I apprehend, an improper softness in the texture of the millstones; they accused me of capriciousness, and reminded me how fond we are of French bread in LONDON. This I acknowledged, but reminded them that our French bread was made of English flour.

My first place of destination being BASINGSTOKE, I arrived there on the Friday evening. This town is populous in itself, and is greatly assisted by being a good thoroughfare. It is about eleven miles to the east of WHITCHURCH, thirty-five east by north of SALISBURY, and forty-eight west by south of LONDON. There are the ruins of a chapel built by Lord SANDY'S in the reign of HENRY the Eighth. There are three charity schools, and there is an hospital for the maintenance of aged and helpless clergy. It is a pity it had not some other denomination, and that the endowments had not been sufficient to have distinguished the dwelling of the sons of learning, from a house for paupers. This is a celebrated country for barley, and the inhabitants of BASINGSTOKE, deal largely in malt, and have also a manufactory for druggets and shalloons.

On the Sunday I left BASINGSTOKE for ANDOVER, where I remained till the following Tuesday; but as I met with nothing there worth recollection, except that constant attention with which I was every where liberally followed, and of which the repetition, though dear and flattering to my feelings, would not only be very like egregious egotism, but be insufferably tiresome to general readers; I shall only instance that this place, on account of its fairs, either in the town or in the vicinity, particularly that on WEYHILL, and other advantageous circumstances, is in point of opulence, an object of greater consequence than BASINGSTOKE.

I arrived at SALISBURY on Tuesday the 5th, and continued there till the following Monday. Of SALISBURY you can give a much better account than I, and there-

fore you will, I have no doubt, assist what I shall offer, with such remarks as may render my relation more acceptable to my readers; at the same time I cannot write a SALISBURY Guide, or the guide of any other place: I must prune and arrange; I shall, however, endeavour to preserve as much pith as possible.

The cathedral, though by no means an object of such admiration as that at WINCHESTER, the minster at YORK, and many other buildings of a similar kind, is nevertheless worthy notice. I don't like the spire. It would be an excellent land-mark if it were near the coast; but, as it is, in comparison to the low buildings about it, it looks like a plant drawn up in a hot-house. I don't mean to mention this ludicrously. I admire it as an effort of art, and for the sake of advancing perfection in mechanics, of which nobody knows more than yourself, I should have no objection, if instead of four hundred and ten feet high, which is a wonderful altitude, it had been twice that height; but as it turned out, as those experiments generally do, too weak to be appropriated to that use for which such erections are made, it seems soaring out of the sight of that church with which it appears to be offended, because a tower was built at a distance to receive the bells, which are the fair property of the spire. Taking it, however, merely as an object, if the tower part of it had not gone so far up, it would be, in my idea, handsomer than any thing of that kind I have seen, either in ENGLAND, or in FRANCE, or even in SCOTLAND, where for number and variety, edifices of this description, I should suppose, exceed any in the world, if the dimensions of the ground on which they stand are also taken in.

The close, where reside the different ecclesiastical officers, is spacious and well planted, and the houses have so handsome and becoming an appearance, that they are equally a credit to that city they grace, and to that cause they support. Nothing so honestly warms the heart as the comfort of those who are selected in governments, to promulgate that religion, without which no government can be permanent.

It appears to me, and it as an observation I have made at all times, and at every place, that wherever the opulence of the people is derived from an internal trade,

the minds of the inhabitants are narrowed in proportion. The business is learnt, the quantity of work ascertained, the reward is exactly in proportion to the labour, and, patient and persevering, without pride, without emulation, without ambition, an eternal routine of the same dull occupations makes up the circle of their hours, and they trudge on, mind and person, like a horse in a mill, careless of any wish to extend their pursuits beyond their habitual boundaries. How far this applies to SALISBURY I will not pretend to say; but I am sure it applies to other places, of which the portrait may be made from the same outline.

The air of SALISBURY is considered as very wholesome, and there are certainly some most charming places in the neighbourhood. It would have been impossible to have existed there for want of water, had not these brick canals been constructed, which conduct that necessary of life through all the streets of this city; necessary particularly there; for, though at mid noon the stream may be pellucid, and per chance sweet, at midnight I am afraid it never has either of these advantages, for unaccustomed to dig for cellars, a convenience this city cannot boast, they do not trouble their heads to dig for any other convenient purposes, and, therefore, in spite of these continual ablutions, there are times when you might fancy yourself in Old EDINBURGH; and, it is on this account, perhaps, that people spend the day at SALISBURY, and sleep in the neighbourhood.

I must confess I am no great admirer of cities. They are, as I have upon a former occasion said of the dominos at masquerades, grave, elegant, genteel, and stupid, to which, if we were to add proud and poor, the phrase would pretty well apply. We must always, however, except sea-ports, and where manufactories are established. Some have averred that this vapidness is owing to the cathedral, which nurtures so many drones as to keep all the rest of the hive lazy; but this assertion is more invidious than true. It cannot be denied at the same time, that much of the contempt of religion, which impure and seditious doctrines have but too successfully infused among the people, arises from the hauteur and insufferable pride of some of the dignified clergy.

As I shall take another opportunity in the course of this work to give a finishing stroke to WILTSHIRE, my business will be to give a complete account of DORSETSHIRE before I leave the subject; for though I visited it a second time in 1799, I then merely passed through a partial part of the county, and my first visit furnished me with sufficient means to say as much as will answer every purpose of my limited plan.

This county, as you know, and so do many of my readers, is bounded on the north by WILTSHIRE and SOMERSETSHIRE, on the south by the English channel, on the east by HAMPSHIRE, and on the west by DEVONSHIRE, and a part of SOMERSETSHIRE. It extends about fifty miles in length, forty in breadth, and takes in a circumference of a hundred and fifty. It is divided into thirty four hundreds, which are in some way again divided in favour of SHERBORN, SHAFTSBURY, BLANDFORD, DORCHESTER, and BRIDPORT. It contains twenty two market towns, and about two hundred and fifty parishes. It is in the province of CANTERBURY, and diocese of BRISTOL, and it sends twenty members to parliament.

The pastures in the vallies on which the horned cattle are fed, are very rich, and the Downs are covered with sheep of a sweet and delicate flavour. The forests and the woods abound with fallow deer, great plenty of other game are constantly found, there are several good harbours from which they are well supplied with fish, and, indeed fewer counties have all the necessaries and accommodations of life in more perfection.

It is impossible for me to speak of the whole county. I saw, however, the major part of it, and shall set down the towns in the order I visited them. I was at SHAFTSBURY not above thirty hours; but I was curious and my friends were communicative. Not that there is any great matter to be said of SHAFTSBURY, except that it is beautifully situated, and that its inhabitants are liberal and spirited. When I say this I take in the vicinity. I make it my custom to notice as little as possible decayed churches and abbies; for though I venerate these relics of religion, mingling, however, my devotion with commisseration, and, indeed, something stronger, for the blood that has been spilt in their quarrels, yet

there is so much truth to say, and so much doubt to clear up in attempting to explain such subjects, that it will not be in my power to give them more than a slight notice.

It is impossible to pass by the prophet of SHAFTSBURY, who was called AQUILA, who lived as some pretend, in that monastery of Benedictines built by ALFRED, in 888, and who predicted that the government of BRITAIN after having been in the hands of the Saxons and the Normans, would return to the ancient Britons; and, so fond are mankind of sifting truth out of mystery, it has been pretended that the prophecy began to be accomplished at the accession of HENRY the Seventh, and was completed when the Kings of SCOTLAND first possessed the throne of ENGLAND.

SHAFTSBURY must have lost much of its consequence. It had formerly ten churches, and has now only three, and since the great western road is diverted from its former channel through BLANDFORD, I apprehend to avoid the hills, its spirit as a thoroughfare, which is a very favourable symptom of opulence in country towns, is considerably damped. This is loudly proclaimed by its having but one inn, which, wherever, they meet it, is a miserable circumstance for travellers; who, under the influence of this exclusive power, are often ill accommodated, and treated with insolence. The inconvenience occasioned by the dearth of water in the town of SHAFTSBURY, which article is at this time brought up the hill from MOTCOMB, must at particular times be severely felt. There was formerly a large cistern in the town, and about the year 1714, Mr. BENSON, one of the members, erected an engine at the expence of 3000*l.* which conveyed water into this reservoir, from the distance of a mile; but this gentleman, notwithstanding so handsome an instance of public spirit, was voted out on the following election; and, as the yearly profits were afterwards insufficient to keep up the necessary repairs, this noble act of benevolence found no imitator, so that in a few years it was suffered to fall into decay. A friend at SHAFTSBURY, who not a month ago gave me this information, says in the same letter, that in paving the streets a few years past, some of the works belonging to the cistern were found. As SHAFTSBURY is celebrated for its keeness in the conduct of its elections, it is wonderful, considering the

infinite utility of this reservoir, that the inhabitants did not covenant regularly with their members to follow the example of Mr. BENSON. But I get into length, and shall therefore for the present leave off. Tell me, are you tired, or will you accompany me further?

Yours, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, very truly,

Dec. 1, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XI.

FROM SHAFTSBURY TO BRIDPORT.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I SHALL now acquaint you with what further I remarked in DORSETSHIRE.

From that beautiful eminence on which SHAFTSBURY stands, we gradually descended into those vallies so rich and so diversified, which mark the way towards SHERBORNE, which has however, nothing particular that I recollect in itself, being only characterized by that general beauty, which is common in all the fertilized parts of England. Indeed it is not within the province of this article to notice the whole way, part of it being in SOMERSETSHIRE. To SHERBORNE, therefore, I shall beg the favour of conveying you, which is seated on the declivity of a hill on the borders of WHITE-HART FOREST, twenty-four miles south-west of SALISBURY, fifty-four east north-east of Exeter, and a hundred and eighteen west south-west of LONDON.

This ancient town was an episcopal see, originally conferred on ST. ENDHELM in 705. The sees of WILTON and SHERBORNE were afterwards united. Queen ELIZABETH, subsequent to this, obtained it from the bishops and chapter, and conferred it on Sir WALTER RALEIGH, on whose attainder JAMES the First gave it to Prince HENRY; and at his death, to ROBERT CARR, Earl of SOMERSET; and he being

also attainted, it was given to Sir JOHN RIGBY, afterwards Earl of BRISTOL, whose patent was confirmed by act of parliament, and therefore the ecclesiastical jurisdiction is now in the Bishop of BRISTOL; all which particulars I learnt in consequence of my enquiries, upon finding that the day after my arrival, there was to be a general confirmation of children.

This excellent custom is full of good sense and sound policy. In no part of the world I believe has it ever been practised as it is practised here. Among the ancients it was performed immediately after baptism, and considered as the accomplishment of that ceremony. Among the Greeks it still accompanies baptism, though the Romanists make it a distinct ceremony. Confirmation has been always considered as incomplete unless conferred by the bishop; the doctrine having been clearly laid down, that a priest or deacon may baptize, but none but a bishop, on account of his succession to the apostles, to whom it originally belonged, can confirm; nay, some have gone so far as to insist that the confirmation must be conferred as well as taken, fasting.

The misfortune of all wholesome customs is, that men attempt to reason us out of their gravity. The motive of confirmation is not only obvious, but admirable. While the child is supposed to be incapable of judging for itself, its sponsers in ratification of their oath at the font, an oath by the bye, I believe very seldom kept, or even thought of, are to undertake this very necessary trouble, from which they are not released till, according to their promise, they have delivered their charge into the hands of the bishop to be confirmed, which is in general when children have attained twelve years of age. At this time the rising plant is supposed to have gained sufficient strength, the prop is taken away, and it is left to shift for itself.

Putting every other consideration out of the question, nothing can be so gratifying to any mind delighted with simplicity and nature, as what I saw that day at SHERBORNE. Fathers leading their girls, and mothers accompanying their boys, while the elder sisters, who had been confirmed on the last visitation, were instructing their brothers in what they had to do; and at the same time, perhaps

putting their hair smooth, or tying the black ribbands about their necks, or adjusting some other part of their dress which had been deranged by climbing up a tree or jumping over a post. I never saw an instance of more graceful aukwardness, if I may be allowed the expression, than in one of these, who, while she was wiping her brother's waistcoat with one hand, and her own tears with the other, exhibited a mixture of anger and grief, at the carelessness of the little truant, who had spoiled his clothes by tumbling into the kennel.

I have no doubt but that on the return of these good people to their different homes, they were full of chearfulness and piety, that the charge they had heard was reiterated through the family, who all like the Blacksmith in King John, suspended their employ for the moment to hear and to edify; and whether the impression continued a little or a long time, that at some periods from that day to this it has operated as a stimulative to remind them of their moral duty. I wish there were more antidotes of this description to the cruel and wicked poison that has been so often administered to delude and corrupt the innocent and the unwary.

Sherborne happened at that time to be very full. There was a kind of sessions held by the magistrates, and there was a meeting of the *supermultary* militia, as I heard it called by one, who was asked by a friend, if he served in the *calvary*. Having looked at the church, which is part of an old abbey, and a fine Gothic structure, but patched by having been repaired after a fire; and been informed that the bells are very fine, but so large that it is impracticable to ring them, I left Sherborne for Dorchester.

Dorchester is a clean chearful town, and has a very genteel neighbourhood. It has no manufactory, nor has it any other appearance than that of a place of pleasure, to which its vicinity to Weymouth at those times when the king resides there, in great measure contributes. It has been celebrated for its beer, and it had once a manufactory of broad cloth, which has been long at an end. Indeed, all mechanical arts, like the needle, point to the north, naturally followed by commerce. Nothing can be a stronger proof of this than Liverpool, which has long been drawing away the trade of Bristol; and Hull all the coasting business,

except YARMOUTH, from IPSWICH to SALTFLEET; nay, were LIVERPOOL to lose the slave trade, I know not if HULL would not be the most considerable port in the kingdom. As to the manufactories that begin about the center of the nation, they push on to the north till having established themselves in YORKSHIRE, they expand to the east and west, but particularly to the east, and passing in their way from LEEDS to LIVERPOOL, through BRADFORD, HALLIFAX, ROCHDALE, MANCHESTER, and WARRINGTON, they gain a direction due north; nor do they rest till they have taken PAISLEY and GLASGOW, in all which pursuit they are accompanied by their natural consequence, encreased population. The riches of DORCHESTER consists principally of its sheep, six hundred thousand of them being fed within six miles of the town, which are bought up by the farmers of BEDFORDSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, OXFORDSHIRE, KENT and SURRY. These sheep are said to be wonderfully prolific from the wild thyme and other rich pasturage, which those parts afford them.

Though Roman stations, and camps, and similar objects, can very rarely be described by me, it would be wrong wholly to pass by those near DORCHESTER, which I more readily notice, as one illustration will perhaps answer every purpose. POUNDBURY, which stands half a mile west of DORCHESTER, upon the brink of a river, we are desired to believe was VESPASIAN'S camp. It was certainly a work of wonderful construction, and manifests the convulsions this extraordinary country has sustained; so does MAIDEN CASTLE close to DORCHESTER, which is also said to have been a Roman camp; nor must we omit the remains of the amphitheatre, the terrace of which is now a fashionable lounge for belles and beaux, and thus appropriated to at least as harmless a purpose as formerly; for though there may be some hearts wounded, lives are perfectly safe.

Celtic barrows and others are remarkable in this country, which are tumili generally allowed to be sepulchres, whether human bones have been found in them or not, for it is known that the ancients often burnt bodies before they buried them. All these circumstances put together announce that at some time or other this country has anciently been the theatre of war and carnage, and particularly at the time when the Romans invaded it; but I cannot feel it very essen-

tial to my peace of mind whether these horrors were perpetrated a year before any particular period or a year after, and I would rather congratulate my countrymen on their enjoyment of golden civilization, than condole with them on those iron times when ENGLAND was rude and barbarous. The difference is superlative. We were then a prey to foreign invasion. We now keep all the world at arms length.

Chearful WEYMOUTH, dingy MELCOMB REGIS, and sulky PORTLAND, every body has seen; PORTLAND, however, though it scowls all weathers at mariners, as if it warned them of CHESSIL BANK, that narrow isthmus that made it a peninsula, on which have been lost so many noble vessels, is an object of material consequence to this nation. Its sheep are a remarkable species, are very numerous, and of delicate flavour: and its quarries produce stone of great and universal utility, of which WESTMINSTER BRIDGE is a durable proof.

MELCOMB has a well frequented harbour. It follows the Newfoundland, the wine, and the country trade, in all which it maintains a large and an opulent correspondence; but as the name of MELCOMB is now almost obsolete, its former quarrels with WEYMOUTH having induced HENRY the Sixth to remove its privileges as a port to POOLE, which from an inconsiderable fishing town is now become a place of extensive trade, and its having been rescued from insignificance by its incorporation with WEYMOUTH, I shall as is now the custom, consider it as a part of that town, the name of which every body knows, while there are very few who have the slightest knowledge of MELCOMB REGIS.

WEYMOUTH has also increased the consequence of MELCOMB REGIS, by its acquaintance with the great world, by its celebrity as a watering place, and by its being crouded every year by hundreds of loyal subjects, who flock to receive in return for their wishes and prayers, the benedictions of their common father, which benignity plays within its own atmosphere, and carries its influence wherever it goes. Would it were omnipresent, for I'll venture to say, that WEYMOUTH is the only inoffensive watering place in the kingdom.

I returned to DORCHESTER, and went on to BRIDPORT; where, on the finish of this letter, I shall take my leave of you for the present, but in the interim, as I have been since in DORSETSHIRE, and therefore am enabled to give a further account of it; my remarks cannot come better than in this place. At that time I came to SHAFTSBURY by the way of WINCAUNTON, and touching at SHERBORNE, I went on to DORCHESTER, passing by EVERSHOT, and CERNE, at which last place EDWALD the brother of EDMUND the martyr turned hermit, and was buried with great sanctity, and in memory of him EGELWALD erected a monastery, which like the chance of all other perishable things, has been buried in oblivion by the hand of time, and it is therefore, that I do not feel inclined to pledge myself for the truth of the legend, especially as it is accompanied by another less credible, which is, that ST. AUSTIN coming to baptize the people in DORSETSHIRE, and finding no water, a fountain instantly sprung up at his command, which has run ever since. I dare say they would have no objection if some ST. AUSTIN would pay a visit with as good effect to the inhabitants of SHAFTSBURY.

From DORCHESTER I went at that time to BLANDFORD, that phœnix twice renovated, for it was burnt down in the reign of ELIZABETH, and again in 1731, at which time, to heighten the distress, numbers were carried out of their beds in the small-pox, and obliged to be exposed in the open fields; but, notwithstanding this aggravated calamity, few lives were lost, and the town at present looks not only conscious of its newly acquired strength and beauty, but seems to exult at its having robbed SHAFTSBURY of its bustle and business; for in consequence of that circulation which makes the inhabitants civil, and the waiters obedient; instead of HOBSON'S choice for a resting place, you may pick and chuse till you are satisfied.

From BLANDFORD I went to PIMPERN, thence to HORTON, and so on to RINGWOOD in HAMPSHIRE. I shall therefore return to the place and the time when leaving DORCHESTER, I keep on to BRIDPORT with a view to expedite my journey into DEVONSHIRE. Thus I shall have no opportunity of noticing from my own observation, CORFE CASTLE, where that wretch ELFRIDA connived at the murder of ED-

WARD the martyr; of PURBECK, remarkable for that hard stone which is considered so useful in paving, or any other of those places which have in general something worthy the attention of a traveller.

BRIDPORT, except for its being immediately in the great western road, and for the extensive produce of hemp in its neighbourhood, would be a place of perfect insignificance. I shall, therefore, proceed to some general particulars, and then relieve you from an attention to matters of which you could better have informed me than I have been able to inform you; and first, in conformity to a rule I have laid down, and that has been much approved of, I shall speak of celebrated men born in DORSETSHIRE.

STILLINGFLEET, the learned bishop of WORCESTER, highly distinguished by his polemic writings, was born in 1635, at CRANBORN. SUMMERS, a great sea adventurer, who gave his name to the islands in BERMUDAS, was born at LYME. BASTARD, an ingenious, but troublesome spirit, was born at BLANDFORD; so was CREECH, the famous translator of Juvenal and Horace; and so was WAKE, who, in 1716, was translated from LINCOLN to CANTERBURY, which high situation he filled twenty years with honour to himself and advantage to the church. Sir SYMONDS D'EWES, a man of great patience and industry, for he collected the journals of all the parliaments in the reign of ELIZABETH, was a native of COXDEN: he was the intimate friend of COTTON, SPELMAN, SELDON, and others; and, that he might never lose a moment, when he could not employ his time actively, for he was pretty busy, and did not much care what cause he espoused, he sat himself down to collect his journals; just as they employ the devil to shell pease for fear he should run away with a corner of the house. The witty and profligate Earl of SHAFTSBURY, the particulars of whose life every body knows from his opposition to OLIVER CROMWELL, to his witty answer to CHARLES the Second, came into that world with which he made pretty free during his life time, July 22, 1621, at WINBOURNE, St. GILES'S. Sir WINSTON CHURCHILL, an eminent historian, and father to the great Duke of MARLBOROUGH, was a native of WOOTON. GLANVILLE SYDENHAM, a learned and celebrated physician, was born at WINFORDLAGLE, an estate in DOR-

SETSHIRE; and Sir JAMES THORNHILL, who painted several pieces at HAMPTON-COURT and GREENWICH HOSPITAL, and who died in peace, having married his daughter to HOGARTH, was born at THORNHILL. So that by this short specimen, we find that DORSETSHIRE had its divines, its statesmen, its poets, its physicians, and its painters, and all of eminence.

The air of DORSETSHIRE is generally thought wholesome; on the hills it is invigorating, and in the vallies mild and soft, so that all constitutions may make a congenial choice of residence. Some have lamented that the great road does not yet continue through SHAFTSBURY, on account of the diversity of prospect; while others prefer the present course, because it is less troublesome. It resembles our cavilling in our pursuits through life; some think it worth their while to attain pleasure by taking trouble, and therefore are subject to ups and downs, while others are content with jogging on upon a level, little solicitous about the prospect, so they arrive safely at their journey's end.

The principal rivers in DORSETSHIRE are the Stour, and the Frome. The Stour rises in SOMERSETSHIRE, and runs due south to STURMINSTER. There it forms an angle, leaves DORSETSHIRE at WINBORN, and falls into the sea at CHRISTCHURCH in HAMPSHIRE. The Frome originates in DORSETSHIRE, and runs to WAREHAM, after which it, at the distance of about nine miles, falls into POOLE harbour, which it is understood has four tides in twenty-four hours. I'll thank you to account for this report, if any thing can lead you to it; for my part, I have yet found nothing to convince me of it as a fact, and shall therefore refrain from arguing upon it, till I have discovered something that may possibly explain the nature of this appearance. The remaining rivers are the Piddle, the Leddon, the Deselish, and the Allen, in all these there are plenty of fish, particularly trouts, tench and eels.

With a short account of the plants peculiar to this country, which are but few in number, I shall close this article. The *Cyperus longus*, sweet grass, or English galingale, is found in the island of PURBECK. St. Barnaby's thistle, sweet willow or Dutch myrtle, the English sea tree, mallows, *malva arborea marina*, Portland.

Sengreen, and the shrub stonecrop, are also to be found in plenty, especially about PORTLAND island; to which intelligence I shall be obliged to you for the addition of any thing material.

Leicester-Place, Yours very sincerely

Dec. 2, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

	Bere Regis	Blandford	Bridport	Corfe Castle	Cranburn	Dorchester	Evershot	Frampton	Lyme	Melcomb Regis	Piddle	Pimpern	Poole	Portland	Shaftsbury	Sherborne	Sturminster	Swanage	Wareham	Weymouth	Wimborn	Woodgates	London
Thurs. Abbotsbury to	25	24	16	28	34	8	23	14	21	18	13	26	30	20	37	26	26	34	20	17	33	36	128
Bere Regis to		9	27	20	21	13	28	19	38	24	8	11	16	26	22	32	17	17	6	23	18	21	113
Sat. Blandford to			33	19	11	16	25	22	41	26	11	2	16	28	13	21	8	25	14	25	9	12	104
† Sat. Bridport to				36	43	16	21	10	9	26	21	34	43	28	45	34	33	42	33	25	41	44	136
* † Thurs. Corfe Castle to					25	20	35	26	45	26	21	21	15	28	32	38	28	6	5	25	15	31	119
Cranburn to						28	36	31	50	37	20	7	17	34	22	17	8	26	20	36	10	5	91
* † Sat. Dorchester to							15	6	25	10	5	18	28	12	29	18	24	26	18	9	25	28	120
Evershot to								14	31	25	20	27	43	27	21	4	16	41	32	24	34	36	123
Frampton to									21	16	11	24	34	18	35	18	26	32	24	15	31	34	126
† Frid. Lyme to										35	30	43	51	37	54	43	41	51	42	34	51	53	144
* † Melcomb Regis to											15	28	31	2	39	28	34	31	21	1	30	38	130
Piddle to												13	27	17	24	19	18	26	17	14	20	23	115
Pimpern to													17	30	15	23	10	27	16	27	11	10	102
* † Mon. Poole to														33	24	36	24	21	10	30	7	21	108
Portland to															33	31	36	29	23	3	37	40	132
* † Sat. Shafisbury to																16	8	39	27	39	22	22	102
Sat. Sherborn to																	8	44	36	27	30	33	119
Thurs. Sturminster to																		34	22	33	17	20	109
Swanage to																			12	31	21	37	125
* † Sat. Wareham to																				20	10	26	114
* † T. & F. Weymouth to																					34	38	129
Frid. Wimborn to																						21	113
Woodgates to																							88

DORSETSHIRE.

A table of the distances, &c. in DORSETSHIRE. Corporation towns, that is to say, those governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are thus distinguished *; boroughs thus †; and the market towns have the initials of the days placed before them. The members for the county are not here included.

WEYMOUTH and MELCOMB REGIS are governed by a united corporation.

LETTER XII.

INNS.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

HAVING addressed a cursory examination of my short tour through part of KENT and SUSSEX to Mr. THOMAS SHELDON, and began my Western tour to our valuable friend his brother, I feel an inclination to indulge myself in some general remarks.

I shall wholly confine this letter to the subject of Inns; but I shall so guard myself that those who accuse me of partiality or prejudice, must do so from a consciousness that my remarks are just, rather than from proof that I mean any thing personal or particular; which, though perhaps a wholesome and a meritorious mode of castigation, for all impostors deserve to be stigmatized, is unworthy any work that professes general utility; and I have often found that the cap has been sooner taken up when thrown among the multitude than when addressed or attributed to any individual.

Inns, both in ENGLAND and SCOTLAND, are of various descriptions, and FIELDING's remark that at good Inns you pay extravagantly for good cheer, and at bad ones for nothing at all, may be generally applied in both kingdoms, and here I must take leave to contradict the constant remark that the Inns in SCOTLAND are much worse than those in ENGLAND. I have been obliged to put up with Inns in ENGLAND, and head Inns too, and in flourishing manufacturing towns, to which I would have preferred the worst of those where chance has thrown me in SCOT-

LAND. I will not say that there are many in either country too cleanly; but, taking in the consideration that the money spent at Inns on great and fashionable roads in ENGLAND is by the multiplication of a large figure more than can possibly be the case in SCOTLAND, the accommodation and cheer preponderates in favour of SCOTLAND, and as for civility, it is there equal to the French in point of attention, without any danger of the insincerity, which certainly cannot be said at all times in favour of English treatment. I have been delighted with neatness and cleanliness in a lonely Inn in a romantick country between DUMFRIES and SANQUEHAR, and I have met with the manners of a man of fashion in a landlord at GREENOCH.

This cannot be considered as any deduction from the elegance and even magnificence of some of the English Inns, of which perhaps the CASTLE at MARLBOROUGH takes the lead; where the guest seems as if he were invited to occupy seperate apartments in the mansion of a man of fortune, with a request to accept the attendance of the servants during his stay, who have previously received orders to furnish him with whatever can contribute to his pleasure and convenience; and, so far is FIELDING's remark out of place, that I have never found the charges at houses of this description, taking in the advantage of the comfort I have received, so high as at other Inns in general.

These are the sort of Inns I would therefore in particular recommend to families; at others they will very seldom find much satisfaction, which indeed they cannot but be aware of, for those who travel in their own carriages rarely make any halt to dinner, but generally content themselves with what they call a snack. If they are obliged to stay all night, the best beds are very likely occupied by Officers, either already arrived or else in expectation of arriving, an avant courier always previously attending upon such occasions to mark the bed chamber doors with the names of those who are approaching.*

* Another way you may be deprived of beds at Inns. The servants of persons of fashion have their choice of accommodation in preference to promiscuous company, however respectable. If, therefore, nursery maids are sent forward with children; If the butler and housekeeper are dispatched to prepare the town or country house, as circumstances

As to the eternal routine of beef, mutton, and veal, and the rest of the bill of fare, it will be always first come first served. If they are overstocked, the stalest meat is dressed first, and the last fillet of veal, which has been originally set before the company at the Sunday's ordinary, or perhaps the farmers on a market day, must be cut up to the very bone, to supply veal cutlets and Scotch collops. As to chickens, you will most probably get them stale, often lean and unhealthy, and sometimes killed after you enter the house. You may, perhaps, meet with a decent mutton chop, or a beef steak, but to do this you must manœuvre. I had a trick of pretending to be a great eater, and always desired that the chops or steaks might be sent in hot and hot; thus, by picking here and there a bit till the second supply arrived, I at length secured myself that part of the meat which was least likely to be tainted or musty. You must be cautious how you order sea fish in an inland town, and there is a shameful custom too often used, of keeping carp, eels, and other fresh water fish, in wells and cisterns till they are almost putrid, though alive.

At Matlock I had trout brought before me completely tainted, though at the door with five minutes trouble, they might have procured them fresh out of the water. This circumstance so possessed me, that when I dined at Bowness in Westmoreland, and was told that we might either have trout, or char, I very roundly interrogated the woman as to their being fresh. "Fresh," said she with great simplicity, "it's loikely, I dinna knaw; they binna caught yet."

I don't know how I came to ask the question, for I always found representation and remonstrance of no other avail than to add insolence to imposition, and upon

may govern the case, they must by constant prescription have the best beds; and, though a respectable family return to an Inn, merely from the recollection of having been upon some former occasion well satisfied with their treatment, they must not hope for the beds they have been accustomed to occupy, if any of these second hand gentry should be there. The landlords dare not oblige them, and the chambermaid will not. I once heard, upon less provocation than this, a footman load a landlord, while he was bowing at the door, with every vulgar and opprobrious epithet he could think of, and swear, as he rode off, that he would take care his lordship should never come to that house again. Why, unless there was some secret convention, did not this landlord, who was Mayor of the town, commit this insolent fellow to Bridewell?

that account, during thirteen years past, at which time I made my original tour, I have constantly paid the bill without manifesting any objection, upon the principle of the man, who said he made a point of never affronting a highwayman or a barber, for one held a pistol to his head, and the other a razor to his throat*. As to the bill itself, it is generally a very curious thing, and there are some remarks I have made on this subject, which have not perhaps struck every body; and, though I never condescended to enquire, I should like very much to know whether the circumstance which begat those remarks, and which is constant and usual, arises from the waiter or the landlord.

It is not unusual for the bill to be cast up wrong. This error I always make a point of rectifying, because, as it is possible to be a mistake, one may take the liberty of noticing it without offence; but, besides this, a close inspector will

* In the course of travelling more than four thousand miles, I never refused to pay a single item in a bill of this description but once. I have submitted to sit in filth, to wait till I have been sick, and at last to get nothing eatable at an inn at FAREHAM, the apology for an alehouse at WAPPING, at the same expence for which I had the day before been lodged handsomely, attended diligently, and served plentifully, at that admirable inn, the GEORGE at WINCHESTER. I have paid sixpence a mile for post horses more than the customary charge, and once at the ANGEL at SHEFFIELD, actually yielded to a charge of fourpence-halfpenny a mile, additional, to have the privilege of my own servant to ride behind my own carriage: and, indeed, I have no doubt but I could mention a hundred impositions of a similar complexion which I have quietly suffered. I know not, therefore, how I came to be moved to resistance in the instance I allude to; but I believe it was owing to the complexion of the bill, which I had, as I run my eye over it, remarked in every circumstance to have been most shamefully overrated. The article I mean was this. I had arrived at this inn, and I dined there; my family were invited with me to the house of a particular friend, where we went after dinner, without intention, indeed, of sleeping there, lest it should prove more inconvenient than I wished. It was impossible, however, to resist their solicitations, and a servant was sent to inform the people of the inn that we should not want beds. Seeing, notwithstanding, in the bill, not only a charge for beds, but for rush-lights, from a house where I had not only never slept, but never remained for more than three hours; my usual prudence, if it may be called so, forsook me, and I resolutely refused to pay the unreasonable demand. A most particular friend, to whom I afterwards related the circumstance, told me he had one to match it. Six gentlemen upon a public occasion, ordered a dinner at the very house in question; and after they had paid the bill, threw down a shilling a-piece for the waiter. The fellow took up the amount of the bill, and asked what the remainder of the money was for. He was told it was for himself. "For me," said he, "I'll send boots for it." At this insolence one of the gentlemen swore he would kick him out of the room. "No, no," said my friend, "that would give "you trouble, and put you to expence, I'll tell you how to save both. Imitate me; put your shilling in your "pocket." This advice was adopted, and they left the house, after admonishing the landlord not to employ waiters to insult his guests.

often see that many of the cyphers are altered either into sixpences or ninepences, and other figures distorted, so as to vary as little possible from their own shapes, thus to cause an augmentation of the bill sometimes to the tune of three or four shillings; and as this trick is, one should naturally suppose, played by the waiters, the mention I have here made of it may perhaps induce the landlords to look about them, and take care that in future travellers shall be imposed on by nobody but themselves.

Inns are kept by different descriptions of persons, among whom I am ready to allow that there are a number of very respectable characters I could point out men in this situation, who have rendered themselves and their families independant, and who are held in esteem, and that very justly, by gentlemen of the first respectability and consequence in their different neighbourhoods. You are, in such inns, as comfortable as if you were at home, except in those respects which cannot but be incident to all such situations. The best symptom of this style of inn-keepers is a gradual rise by the fruits of industry and rectitude, just as we have seen men in the city, who have grown into the highest opulence from salaries of forty pounds a year, and just as we saw Lord Hawke an admiral. Professions never debase men, it is men debase themselves. Landlords of this description, by uniting the occupations of farmer, wine-merchant, and other lucrative and analogous pursuits to the business of vintner, are enabled to treat their guests in a much more eligible manner than those who have nothing but the common profits to exist on, and therefore are obliged to live precariously, and compelled to go to market how and where they can for that which those of the other description possess of their own, and have always within their reach. The other inn-keepers smack of their former occupations. They have been perhaps waiters, who, by industriously accumulating their perquisites, not forgetting the sixpences and ninepences have amassed at length enough to succeed their masters; people of the same stamp, who from indolence and infirmity, occasioned by hard drinking, find in themselves an inclination to retire; and as a landlord would be like an empty butt without a landlady, the waiter marries the chambermaid, who, by tucking up young couples and warming beds, has grown warm both in pocket and inclination herself; and thus, that every thing may take its regular course, she appoints her

favourite in her stead, for a valuable consideration by the bye, and leaves the bason and the bottle to bring on the first dish.

Another set have been gentlemens' servants, who, by having flattered the foibles and vices of their masters and mistresses, intermarry either the butler with the housekeeper, or the gentleman's own man with the lady's own maid, and buy the good-will of some inn, over which those masters and mistresses have an influence. They never forget the market penny by which they have attained their prosperity. Their characteristic is a mixture of that servility and insolence with which they have been accustomed publicly to cajole, and privately to vilify their employers, and by which they mean to arrogate no more than has been permitted them. Nothing is so easy as to know the symptoms by which you may pronounce yourself in one of these houses. Every thing is slaternly and uncomfortable; for second-hand ideas in such people are inherent, and they have nothing before them but the imagination of brokers furniture, delf, and shoulders of veal: all which they have imbibed from being accustomed to luncheons, bottles filled with dregs, and cast off cloaths.

There are many more descriptions, which it would be tedious to enumerate. It is impossible, however, to omit a just and necessary reprobation of those scandalous and unwarrantable liberties which are permitted to servants, who, and I go by an averaged calculation of three years, receive among them for not affronting you, for they very often do every thing else, a third of their masters whole charge; yet are they frequently discontented. A string of them intercept you in the way to your carriage, and perhaps the more you go the outside of right, the less they appear contented, and all this in the face of their masters and mistresses, who dare not interfere, for their department extends no farther than the bar; the waiter, the ostler, and the chambermaid having purchased their places, and are therefore determined to espouse the cause of all their fellow servants, even to honest boots. It is from this arises more than half the impositions at inns, just as the best laws lose their efficacy by being strained and filtrated through the hands of understrappers. It is not in the power of the master to prevent abuses, for he has delegated his authority away. The waiter, through the film of that obse-

quiousness which has every thing of abject servility, and nothing of real respect, may, by a keen eye be discovered counting his perquisities in his mind, and considering which way he shall play off the guest, not for his master's credit, but his own advantage. Call for a pint of wine, and you are sure to have a collection of dregs; there is no safety in his bringing in a bottle, and proclaiming his apparent diligence by the report of the cork; the business is thus effected: when a bottle of wine is pretended to be decanted, the last glass and a half are left behind, and thus in about every ten bottles one of them becomes the waiter's perquisite.

If the accumulation is made from the wine delivered out for large parties, the waiter sometimes gets a good stock in one evening, some of which odds and ends he has the audacity to serve up when the faculties of the company are rendered by inebriety incapable of distinguishing. To be sure he may be detected, and the bottle may be thrown at his head; so much the better; he gets a crown by it for smart money. But it will be asked what becomes of the good wine, rather a favourable word by the bye for the best in the cellar, which has been thus snacked? It makes no part of that liquor with which the waiter gets as drunk as the guests, for that operation is performed by sipping. It is not returned to the master for a consideration, though there are some instances of this: it is taken to regale the family at home, for the waiter has always a lodging, and some wife or other, who officiates as washerwoman to the inn.

As to the chambermaid, her conduct is always regulated by what she can get by her customers; and, if she knows any thing of her business, she will take care to make her bargain before hand. Ladies are shewn into rooms not fit to be seen, and where it would be the extreme of inhumanity to let any body sleep: but what's humanity to a chambermaid? the hints she gives are broad enough, and if they are not taken, and a handsome promise is not seriously given, is it her fault that inconvenience is incurred, comfort banished, and health endangered? It is all owing to the stingyness of the lady, who after all, perhaps, having rewarded the chambermaid more liberally than she ought to have done, is obliged to reward the physician.

In relation to sheets, nothing can be so infamously unfeeling as the practices that are used. Clean sheets are out of the question; it is very seldom indeed that guests meet with any such indulgence. The practice is to take them from the bed to sprinkle them with water, to fold them down, and then put them in a press. When they are wanted, they are, literally speaking, shewn to the fire, and in a reeking state conveyed to the bed. The traveller is tired and sleepy; he dreams of that pleasure or that business which brought him from home, and the remotest thing from his mind is, that from the very repose which he fancies has refreshed him, he has imbibed the rheumatism. The only receipt, therefore, to sleep comfortably at inns, which has been my constant practice, is to take your own sheets, to have plenty of flannel gowns, and to promise, and take care to pay, a handsome consideration for the liberty of chusing your beds. It was my custom in FRANCE, to fix upon a room with three or four beds in it, and when the attendants had retired, to make up a large wood fire, strip the bedsteads of all their materials, and contrive with a part of them, as comfortable a place to sleep in as I could.

As to the hostlers, they are a set of tricksters from their infancy; and if you cannot be with your horses early in the morning and late at night, you will infallibly be cheated, To see the feed put in the manger is nothing at all, you must stay till it is eaten: but these tricks, which are innumerable, being better known than the rest, I shall say nothing further at present as to servants at inns, but direct an attention to masters, some of whom do not know, and others perhaps do not care, that they are answerable by the law to their guests for these various frauds, because they cannot be committed but through their connivance.

There are no species of inns under any thing like regulation, except those which are called travellers inns, and even the landlords of those are not correct in their conduct, except to travellers, which appellation takes in riders of all descriptions, whether masters or servants, who journey to receive the order of correspondents. At the travellers inn every thing is methodized and regulated, and the expence of every kind is ascertained before the bill is brought in. They have a large body to contend with, and are obliged to abide by those laws laid down

for them, which, to say the truth, are by no means slavish or illiberal, though positive and invariable; for as these gentlemen have been all brought up to calculation, and taught either to weigh or measure out goods as well as ideas, a certain estimate may be made by the guest of what he shall pay in the course of his travels, and by the landlord of what he shall gain in the course of the year.

I have hitherto spoken of inns, and the operation of their conduct on the public, as far as may give a general idea of the treatment to be expected by those, of whom it is often the misfortune, but sometimes the satisfaction to resort to them. They were originally instituted for the solace of travellers, and there could not have been a wiser or more salutary regulation; but the express letter of their toleration was, and of course is, that from their number and situation, they should not become public nuisances; that they should not harbour persons of scandalous reputation, and that there should not be suffered in them disorders and improper conduct; for, if an Inn should degenerate to the operation of an alehouse by such doings, it should actually be degraded to, and deserve that appellation. Inn-keepers are forbidden by the law to charge exhorbitantly, either for man or horse, to vend corrupt wine or victuals, and to do many other things which all the world knows is the constant practice of too many of them.

To go further into this, would be only to shew that there is scarcely granted what is called a magistrate's beer licence, which must be indiscriminately taken by inn-keepers and ale-house-keepers, but it is violated, and it would be a folly as egregious to expect a newspaper to have a rapid sale by adhering to literal truth, as a house of this description to flourish without a constant violation of that compact by which alone it ought to continue open, even though it is regularly renewed every Michaelmas, under an idea that it is never violated. Thus then are inns warped from the wholesome purposes for which they were instituted, if not by the connivance, at least by the permission of those very magistrates, whose watchfulness ought to restrain their licentiousness. If then, this is their operation in common, and when there can be no possible excuse for the neglect of their duty, what opportunity must be afforded to them of exercising their rapacity when elections, public feasts, horse races, assizes, and various

other times of riot and drunkenness, give them a colourable pretext of levying what contributions they please on their guests. I was once witness to a keen manœuvre practised by the landlords of a large town in the race week. They had advertised their beds a guinea a-piece, and, fearing at the same time that on account of the exorbitant demand, visitors should be induced to take lodgings, they procured, with great art and industry, a promise from the private inhabitants, that they would ask the same price. This was the upshot: the strangers said, if we can get lodgings no cheaper at private houses than at inns, we had better go where our horses can be taken care of. Thus few private lodgings were let, the inns were full, and the landlords laughed at the credulity of their neighbours.

A further consideration of this part of my subject would lead me into an examination of drunkenness, the worst preliminary vice in our nature, which, at present, I must let alone. It is, however, my intention upon the same principle that Fielding most admirably proved that the increase of robberies was owing to the facility of procuring gin; hereafter to shew, that public disaffection, private misfortunes, and many other alarming evils, have their rise in those deleterious compositions faceciously called wine, and other mixtures, even to beer, which was formerly made of malt and hops. By the way, I once saw an advertisement from a person who wished for a partnership in a brewhouse, his recommendation being, "a perfect knowledge of brewing chemically." In all these particulars and their bearings, I shall not spare a little wholesome severity on the rich; for, according to the grave-digger on suicide, I do not see any reason why they should have a privilege of making beasts of themselves any more than the poor.

Lest I should enlarge farther than was my intention, for you know I prate pretty loquaciously when I am in for it, I shall tell you nothing more at present than that I am

Most faithfully yours,

Leicester-Place,
Nov. 29, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XIII.

DEVONSHIRE.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

HAVING gone with you through a part of HAMPSHIRE, of WILTSHIRE, and the whole of DORSETSHIRE; and having since written a general letter to our friend KING on the subject of Inns, I am now ready to attend you into DEVONSHIRE.

Though it is not merely my plan to trench upon the reputation of Itineraries by counting milestones and describing gentlemen's seats, or even to vie with Geographers and describe mountains, vallies, air, soil and situation, yet something of all this it is certainly incumbent on me to notice. I shall therefore only beg when any thing of this kind occurs, you will not consider it as addressed to you, but through you to the public, and subject to such correction as your superior capacity and your readiness to oblige can, and I am sure will, give it.

DEVONSHIRE by the map is the largest county in ENGLAND except YORKSHIRE. It extends sixty nine miles in length from north to south, sixty six miles in breadth from east to west, and is about two hundred miles in circumference. I should apprehend that rendering this county into its present state must have been a task like clearing one of the Leeward Islands, for it is now generally in the highest

degree rich and cultivated, and must formerly have been more luxuriantly wild than any part of the kingdom. The symptoms of this are not conquered even at this momemt, for; the north of DEVONSHIRE is yet so rough, woody and mountainous, and so marked with those worst proofs of the want of cultivation, bad roads, that one is induced to wish for the general good that the greatest part of those impervious coppices that are so profitable to the painter, and so unproductive to the farmer, were removed and sowed with wheat or planted with potatoes. Insurmountable obstacles are said to be opposed to this on account of the steep suddeness of the hills, which are all rocky; but if this be the case, industry and perseveranee have made that easy in SCOTLAND which is impossible in ENGLAND. The surfaces of most mountains where trees have grown in great abundance, have a fine mould thickened by old roots and enriched even to a marl by oozings from between the different strata of the rocks. For miles together in the CARSE OF GOWRY, which is called the granary of SCOTLAND, a mould of this description is drawn and washed down by the weather to the lower half of the hill; there it is partitioned off, levelled and sown with wheat the produce of which for quality and quantity is in general excellent and prodigious. If it should turn out, as it is supposed, that the population of this country should be eleven millions instead of eight, and that the growth of wheat should be of necessity extended, it may not be amiss perhaps to adopt something like this in DEVONRHIRE, I saw a specimen of it last August in SHROPSHIRE and nothing could look more smiling and beautiful.

The rivers in DEVONSHIRE, if I am correct, are so numerous as to admit of more than a hundred and fifty bridges. The Tamer and the Ex are the principal; the former of these however more properly belongs to CORNWALL. The Ex rises in a barren tract of country called EXMOOR where originated, as well as the river, that curious courtship of which our friend DR. CRUWYS furnished me with a copy, a specimen of which courtship I shall give hereafter in a letter upon dialects. The chief of the other rivers are the Dart, the Tow, the Oak, the Lad, the Tame and the Touridge; out of which for my own part, I select the Dart as the most beautiful. Other particulars I shall speak of in the order they presented themselves on my tour which have been since revised by my own recollection, and the memorials I took care to furnish myself with.

I left DORCHESTER on Tuesday, June 19, 1799, dined at BRIDPORT, and slept at AXMINSTER, still famous for druggets and carpets, but not so much as formerly, for the tombs of the Saxon princes slain by the Danes, and for the minster founded by ATHELSTAN, to pray for their souls. HONITON, where I arrived the next day, is a neat shewy town. The rivulet that runs through the middle of the long street, of which the town consists, may be more depended upon for cleanliness than the SALISBURY canals. This is all I remarked of HONITON, except that great quantities of lace are made there; that it is all the handsomer for having been burnt down, and that the church being on a hill, half a mile above the town, the inhabitants go to church on horseback.

I now began to find myself completely in DEVONSHIRE. Vegetation smiled with a most beautifully luxuriant aspect, particularly the pines, which are grand and majestic, and always announce the approach to some magnificent mansion, those near the seat of your friend Sir JOHN KENNAWAY in particular; and this appeared more or less delightful in proportion to the capability of the land, till I reached EXETER, where I had the pleasure, at your charming place, which is situated just above the river, and commands a most extensive view of the surrounding scenery, of taking you by the hand.

For the information of my readers in general, it is necessary to say that EXETER is seventy-eight miles south-west of BRISTOL, thirty-one north of DARTMOUTH, forty south of MINEHEAD, thirty-eight south south-east of BARNSTABLE, seventy-nine east by north of TRURO, fifty-two west by north of DORCHESTER, eighty-nine west by south of SALISBURY, forty-four north-east of PLYMOUTH, a hundred and sixty one east north-east of the LAND'S END, and a hundred and seventy-four to the westward of LONDON. The vicissitudes of this city might make an entertaining volume. It is said to have been built by the Romans, and that it was called by the Britons PENCAER, or, the Capital; that it was the last station in the itinerary of ANTONINUS, and that it had AXELA for its Roman name: to all which, I have not the smallest objection, so I am not compelled to the romantic task of proving all these assertions to be true. I can certainly vouch for its being a large and populous city; that its improvements in particular have greatly added to its

grandeur and opulence, and that the post-office alone, which is a vortex for the reception of letters in every possible direction, is a sufficient proof of its being either immediately or collaterally, the cause of prodigious commercial circulation. EXETER and BRIDGEWATER are the only places where I have been refused bills upon LONDON for money; a proof, that whatever articles may be scarce at those places, cash is not one of them.

As to the cathedral, which by the bye, is not the handsomest in ENGLAND, the castle, the prisons, the workhouses, the hospital, an admirable institution, and other similar particulars, they bear of course, a characteristic sameness to those in other large cities; and, therefore, though they exhibit an aggregate of public spirit, would give but little pleasure in detail. You want very much a good market place; for though the HIGH STREET is long and spacious, when it has only the ordinary obstructions of passing and repassing; nothing can be more intolerable on those days, when it is choked up with butter and eggs. You want also a good corn market.

There are many circumstances which prevent EXETER from partaking of the dullness of other cities. Its serges alone, finished at EXETER, and exported from thence, was once computed at six hundred thousand pounds annually, and the market was said to have been the largest in ENGLAND, except that at LEEDS. The estimation, however, will not bear out the fact with those who have seen the cloth hall at HALLIFAX. Whatever it was, it is now materially lowered. The influx of strangers is another object which keeps up the vivacity of EXETER; a circumstance nevertheless that has no favourable operation generally; nay, it is in some respects an inconvenience; for as a very large number of the inhabitants are those of middling fortunes, who have settled there upon a prudential plan, the stock of the market must be shared as well among the regular residents as those who fluctuate; therefore every thing becomes dearer in proportion to the increase of visitors, and the inn-keepers reap exclusively the advantages. After all, EXETER must be full of various pleasures; it is a kind of Western YORK, replete with novelty and diversity, and though there may be but little to satisfy, there is always a great deal to attract.

This has nothing to do but with the superficial and the curious. Men who move in circles, such as form your connections, are more likely to be met with in large cities than in other places, but their labours and pursuits want no other excitement to action than a desire to arrive at the accomplishment of such knowledge as may enlighten and benefit mankind.

From your hospitable roof I set out on Tuesday the 26th of June, for ASHBURNHAM. I found the road to CHUDLEIGH, I will not say the road indeed, for exclusive of the hills, the highways are every where indifferent in DEVONSHIRE, but the country rich, distance, middle tint, and foreground. The remainder of the way, from our reluctance to leave you and Mrs. SHELDON, we explored in the dark. I don't believe I had any thing to regret in coming this road, but not seeing POWDERHAM CASTLE, and some beautiful situations which I am told lie near it. ASHBURNHAM is a stannery town, has tin and copper mines, and a manufacture of serge; yet there seems to be neither spirit nor intelligence in the place,

My next visit was to TOTNESS, a town of great antiquity, and beautifully situated upon the river Dart. Of this description of places, which historians trace or fancy they trace, to remote ages, we always have a good deal of the extraordinary, from which I am carelessly given to divert my attention, and fix my mind rather upon those objects which I can enjoy and understand. I therefore had more pleasure in contemplating the Dart and its romantic and diversified borders, than I should have received from an inquiry into the track of the Roman causeway, which it is said extends from this town through EXETER and ILCHESTER, and passes to CIRENCESTER by BATH.

From TOTNESS I went to DARTMOUTH on a most dreadful and perilous road whence was frequently seen between numberless and various trees, the surrounding country, full of novel and interesting shapes, but too wild and broken to have made pictures even from the pencil of SALVATOR ROSA. At length however, I found a subject for my purpose, upon the first sudden view of DARTMOUTH, of which from first a sketch upon the spot, and since a picture painted for effect, there will be an engraving in my book opposite the page I am now writing. DART-

MOUTH is a town of some consideration; it formerly consisted of three divisions CLIFTON, HARDNESS, and DARTMOUTH, which were afterwards united under the last appellation. It rained violently the whole time I was there, but the harbour and the surrounding hills, which held it as in a bason, give me at this moment, for I had never been in SCOTLAND when I saw it, an idea of the Frith of FORTH in miniature. This port however cannot be of any very extensive consequence, though there is yet a trade carried on from it to PORTUGAL, to NEWFOUNDLAND, and to ITALY; because PLYMOUTH and even FALMOUTH, are so much better situated, particularly for exportation.

Returned to TOTNESS I went on to PLYMOUTH, where I arrived on the evening of Sunday July the first. Between PLYMOUTH, STONEHOUSE, and DOCK, I took ten days, to look about me, and those three places, which boast no very remote antiquity but had been altogether a scattered fishing town that was burnt to the ground in the reign of HENRY the Fourth, would well furnish matter of observation for a much longer time. They now form three distinct towns ornamented with handsome buildings numerously inhabited and full of commercial business; yet in peace PLYMOUTH, like every other maritime town, feels a considerable partial stagnation in its opulence and consequence.

PLYMOUTH though the leading town is neither so populous nor so wealthy as DOCK; nor is either of them so genteel as STONEHOUSE, at which place reside those who are independant in their fortunes. When I come to speak of PORTSMOUTH, I shall draw a parallel between these rival ports which have their separate advantages, and it is scarcely possible to say on which side they preponderate, particularly as to the docks. It is very remarkable that when the Spanish Ambassador saw the new dock at PLYMOUTH in 1791, he said it was too small for that it would not contain one of their first rates called the ST. JOSEPH. It so happens however that at the time I am now writing the ST. JOSEPH is ready to be turned out of that very dock completely refitted after the trimming it received from Lord ST. VINCENT.

I shall digress in order to notice some few particulars relative to the Victualling Office at PLYMOUTH, the whole of which I was very courteously shewn by the agent

victualler, through a recommendatory letter from our friend CRUWYS. There are two bake-kouses, four ovens in each; they are heated eight times a day, and they bake in the course of that time a sufficient quantity of bread for sixteen thousand men. They have the whole process within themselves: the wheat is deposited in granaries, so large and so constructed, that it cannot be otherwise than dry and sweet. I saw in two of these granaries four thousand three hundred quarters; this wheat is ground into flour, under the inspection of the agent victualler, the flour is conveyed into a repository on the attic story of the bake-houses, from whence it descends by means of a trunk at each, and immediately into the hands of the workmen, who thus have nothing to search for, and this mode of supply is the most remarkable feature in the whole system, for the work by similar contrivances goes on without the smallest deviation or interruption.

The meal and every other article being supplied with such certainty and simplicity, large lumps of dough, strictly a mixture of flour and water, are mixed up together; and, as the quantity is so immense as to preclude by any common process a possibility of kneading it, a man manages, or as it is termed, rides a machine which is called a horse.

This machine is a long roller of, I believe, about nine inches diameter, and I should suppose it is about seven or eight feet in length. It has a play to a certain extention by means of a staple in the wall, into which is inserted a kind of eye, making its action like the machine, by which they cut chaff for horses, or sassafras, or the wood to make lasts for shoes. The lump of dough being placed exactly in the centre, the man sits upon the end of the machine, and literally rides up and down throughout its whole circular direction, till the dough is equally indented, and this is repeated till it is sufficiently mixed and kneaded, at which times by the different positions of the lines, large or small circles are described, according as they are near to, or distant from, the wall, till you have fairly the idea of an immense pentagraph.

The dough in this state is handed over to a second workman, who slices it with a prodigious knife, and it is then in a proper state for the use of those

bakers who attend the oven. These are five in number, and their different departments are as well calculated for expedition and correctness, as the making of pins or working of printing types. On each side of a large table, where the dough is laid, stands a workman; at a small table near the oven, sits another; a fourth stands by the side of the oven to receive the bread, and a fifth to supply the peel. By this arrangement the oven is as regularly filled, and the whole exercise performed in as exact time as a military evolution. But its merits ought to be described more particularly.

The man on the further side of the large table pats the dough, having previously formed it into small pieces, till it has the appearance of muffins, and as fast as he accomplishes this task, he delivers his work over to the man on the other side of the table, who flattens the pieces on both sides with a mark, on which are cut the broad R, the letters P L Y, and the number of the oven in which the biscuits are to be baked. As he rids himself of this work, he throws the pieces on the smaller table next the oven, where sits the third workman, whose business is merely to split the different pieces in two, and place them immediately under the hand of him who supplies the oven, whose work of throwing, or rather chucking the bread upon the peel, must be so exact, that if he looked round for a single moment, it is impossible he should perform it correctly. The fifth, as I have already noticed, receives the bread on the peel, and arranges it in the oven, in which duty he is so very expert, that though the different pieces are thrown at the rate of seventy in a minute, which I calculated, the peel is always disengaged in time to receive them separately.

After a fair examination of the separate dexterity of these men, I could not, upon a fair consideration of their respectiv emerits, allow any particular preference. I thought nothing could exceed the regularity and expertness of him who conducted a piece of wood, about fourteen inches square, with a very long handle, so as to shake off from it seventy pieces of dough in a minute, arrange each piece so correctly in the oven, that by the time his whole task was completed, every space was filled up as exactly as in a honey-comb, and yet be always ready for a fresh supply; but when I left this contemplation, and began to reflect on the neat

exactness with which the man who supplied the oven managed his part of the business; his taking up the pieces of dough with his left hand, without looking at them, chucking them with his right, so as to lay them flat, and on that end of the peel which alone could facilitate his fellow labourers task, and at distances varying proportionably from perhaps sixteen feet to a few inches, never in ten thousand instances once missing his mark; I was on the point of declaring the victory in his favour.

Determined, however to be just, I considered what particular merit attached to the man who sat at the small table, and seemed at any rate, to have the lazy-est post. I discovered, certainly, much shrewdness and calculation in placing the pieces of dough, at the same time that he was attending to the other part of his work, exactly where the man he supplied must infallibly place his hand, which, though it did not require any great activity, clearly had its merit; but when I recollected that his own particular task was in those short intervals, already described, to split every muffin into two biscuits, I could not help allowing him his proportion of merit.

As to the next, who marked the bread, it seemed at first to be no great thing; and as to the other, who merely patted the dough into the form of a muffin, I had by no means any great inclination to give him particular credit for adroitness or ingenuity; but, when I came to consider that the marking-iron was a very unweildy thing to manage, with the requisite alertness and expedition, and that marking so many impressions in so short an interval by mere manual activity, besides receiving the pieces of dough, and conveying them in time to the person next in routine, I thought I perceived, at any rate, something more arduous in his task than in that of either of the others; and as to the remaining labourer, a recollection of one single circumstance, in a moment placed him in my mind upon an equal, if not superior footing to all the rest.

Let it be recollected, that the oven stands open during the whole time of filling it, and therefore the biscuits first thrown in would be first baked, were there not some counteraction to such an inconvenience. The remedy lies in the ingenuity

of this man who forms the pieces of dough, by imperceptible degrees, so as proportionably to diminish their size, till the loss of that time which is taken up during the filling the oven, has no more effect to the disadvantage of any one of these biscuits, out of eight hundred, which I think makes up the batch, than to another.

It is but fair to observe, that there is so much more to be done by the two last mentioned men than the rest, that for expedition they are sometimes obliged to change hands. Other matters occurred to me in the exercise of this labour, which pointed out so much critical exactness, and such neat activity, that upon re-consideration of what I had seen, I could not upon the whole, decide whether the palm of excellence was due to the patter, the marker, the splitter, the chucker, or the depositor, the whole of them, like the wheels of a machine, seemed to be actuated by the same principle; the business was to deposit in the oven seventy biscuits in a minute, which was accomplished with the regularity of a clock, the clack of the peel, during its motion in the oven, operating as the pendulum.

The biscuits, thus baked, are kept in repositories, which receive warmth from the ovens, till they are sufficiently dry to be packed into bags without danger of fermentation, and by the time they are in such a state as not to become mouldy, they are, thus packed, removed into storehouses. When I was there, upwards of forty thousand bags, each bag containing a hundred weight, were in this manner stowed away.

These particulars, though certainly curious in themselves, I have given so minute a description, in great measure to introduce one of those characteristic prints which were originally intended merely as vignettes, but which I have now to give them more consequence, interwoven with the work. The first of them will come opposite this page, and it will not be necessary to do more than trust it to its own merits, especially as the following letter to this will be addressed to Mr. Flaxman, whose very extraordinary talents, which you and I have admired together, do so much honour to English taste, and to that royal institution, of which he is a most respectable academician; and as in that letter I have, submit-

ting to his much superior judgement, explained my undisguised motives for bringing forward an humble, though I flatter myself, a meritorious candidate for public favour; but to resume my narrative.

The country around PLYMOUTH is very extensive but partakes of that sameness which every where distinguishes sea views, and which gives the admirable pictures of VERNETTE, VANDEVELDE, and BACKHUYSEN, one character; sea, and sky, set off by way of foreground by a castle, a lighthouse, or a prominence, all which we forgive in our admiration of these great masters, whose pictures are surely invaluable for the calms of VERNETTE, the agitated seas of VANDEVELDE, and the storms of BACKHUYSEN, are perhaps the nearest approaches to nature that have ever been attempted; but they all want the grandeur of CLAUDE, who painted water as truly as VERNETTE, but he chose Italian sea-ports, where he had the advantage of better skies and high trees, that index of the beauty and luxuriance of the country, whence the portrait is drawn.

I had heard of MOUNT EDGECOMB, and I made a drawing of it, and that I might get it in every point of view, exclusive of the other situations from which I had seen it, I went with a party to CAWSAND BAY, and had like to have paid for my curiosity; for we were exactly on the very point of the rock in our passage where six weeks before, a boat had been staved to pieees, and seven persons drowned. Fortunately there was no wind; and as we were very gently rowed by a lazy waterman, who swore he had come over that very place every day when any thing could live for thirty years, we only stuck in a kind of shelf or rather exuberance, for the rock is said to be quite flat, and, as the tide was flowing, a few minutes released us from our apprehensions; but to revert to MOUNT EDGECOMB. It is too large for a distance, and too small for a foreground, it does very well however for a middle tint but that makes only one third of a picture.

On Wednesday July the second, I left PLYMOUTH for TAVISTOCK. It rained almost the whole journey, and this circumstance gave me opportunity to notice in how many different ways and directions water may be driven and forced according to the nature in which the cloud is irrupted by coming in contact with the mountain.

One moment it appeared perfectly dry; presently a column like a mist would embrace the traveller as closely as a great coat, and he would be instantly wet through; then the rain came in streams, many of which branched off into so many liquid prisms, which exhibited infinite beauty as they were illuminated by the sun; at other times the water descended in bodies as if it had been poured out of large vessels immediately over the head; these bounding along the side of the hills created a kind of film like the spray of a wave. In short I had that morning an idea of every direction that water can impulsively take, all which I noticed more particularly than I can now recollect to the landlord at TAVISTOCK, who told me that nothing was more common, adding, "Icod if a cloud do coom over our hills, damn un a mun take care; thay'll skat un all abroad."

At TAVISTOCK I found nothing worthy my attention except that civility, and even solicitude that I had no where any reason to complain of. There were at that time a great number of French Officers in the town and its neighbourhood on parole. With some of these I occasionally conversed, and had by no means the smallest reason to alter my fixed opinion of the French which I had soberly formed three and twenty years ago in their own country, when I over and over again made their manners and dispositions my study, and I declare to heaven I could not in the course of nearly two years, for I was during that period among them, extract a single quality by which a man of true broad, liberal, or in short English honour, would wish to be distinguished.

These gentlemen, with that usual supercilious arrogance which I have so often pitied and despised, talked away of the wonderful projects the great nation had in view, calculated how soon and in what manner they should hold England as a province, and one of them who was taken prisoner in IRELAND at the time of their disappointed expedition, accused the elements, adding "Oh Sir, if he don't blow so devil fast and I was so cursed sea sick, I vood take vat you call CORK, in three minute."

This is all I saw of DEVONSHIRE before my journey into CORNWALL, an account of which I shall transmit to Colonel GEORGE of PENRYN, whom you know by reputa-

tion, and the Rev. Mr. PENNECK, whom you personally know and highly esteem, which done, I shall address to you and our friend CRUWYS a much more enlarged description of that county which always boasted a great number of advantages, but not so many by one, and that to them of infinite magnitude, as since you have paid it a compliment by your residence among its inhabitants.

Yours,

My dear Sir,

Leicester-Place,

With perfect truth and sincerity,

Dec. 6, 1800.

C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XIV.

NATURE VERSUS ART.

JOHN FLAXMAN, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

THIS letter, which is written to claim your protection for the vignettes that so far make a part of this work, as to explain and illustrate something of character and manners, I shall introduce by some general remarks on the force and effect of genius, in order to excuse the errors inevitably consequent upon all efforts which proceed from permitting an unbridled latitude to strong fancy and fervid imagination. I shall then attempt to argue the propriety of fairly trusting with the public the effusions of an untaught mind; and, finally exonerate myself from the most remote intention of producing any thing that does not upon a fair gronnd demand, to a certain degree, attention, if not admiration.

That I have been all my life a declared enemy to trammels and rules, merely as an imprisonment of the mind, does not in the smallest degree militate against the deference and respect I bear to science in general, or the admiration eminently due to the productions of those who have delighted and improved mankind, and added a polish to genius by attaining the achme of scholastic improvement. Such as these are like pure spirits trusted in a sinful world. They are invulnerable to corruptibility, and therefore come out pure from the ordeal.

Sincere and respectful, however, as my reverence is for learning, and all that illumination which it has reflected on science, I cannot but deplore that it is in general so dispensed, that in the study of imperious art, modest nature is constrained to retire. Scholars learn Greek and logic till they forget English and common-sense; are distracted with harmony till they lose melody; and taught costume, gusto and the chiar' oscuro, to the destruction of grace, beauty and symmetry; and, this is the reason, perhaps, why the arts have been called the handmaids of nature, a description of characters, to whom custom has constantly allowed the privilege of taking impertinent liberties with their superiors.

I will compound the matter with the conoscenti, or, as they are called at NEWMARKET, the knowing ones, if they will but have the modesty to permit nature to be the mistress of the school, and the arts the teachers. It would then, perhaps, be admitted, that the mind should attempt no exertion till it is in a state to sustain it; the task would then be fitted to the exigency, and nature's rules in the disposition of our intellects, as well as the formation of our frames, would be the guides of our progress towards perfection. Then it would be allowed that the maturest fruit were first the germe of a blossom; that reflection and sentiment generated from a twilight of conception; and, the most gigantic bones were originally a mucilage.

Fashion, however, will not have it so. The world are not content with gradation; too impatient to learn, they want to know; they will not be informed, they must be surprised; hence dabblers in science, who have condescended for their own emolument to administer to the foibles of their patrons, so to divert nature and reason from their appropriate course, as to paint caricature, to make the sun stand still to music, and to refute NEWTON.

As, in a letter to my friend KING, on the subject of female education, I shall hereafter go into this more at large, it will be sufficient for my purpose here to set up, as a fair, and I think, an incontrovertible position, that genius ought not to be checked, either at its birth, or at any other stage during its progress towards perfection. Instruction is of the utmost consequence; but it ought to be that

sort of instruction which comes exactly in contact with the scholar's conception. If it assume a caustic, decided and dogmatic form, it is a thousand to one but, being as it is of a timid yet irritable and jealous nature, genius will in that case retire in disgust; it may easily be persuaded, but will not be commanded; it delights to be enwreathed, but cannot bear to be enchained.

The boy who was laughed at for saying he had no doubt but he could write, if he were to try, did not say so foolish a thing as is generally imagined. Great minds have assisted themselves in their emancipation from obscurity in a most astonishing manner; and, to the eternal honour of that delicious intuition, that heavenly inspiration, that something so infinitely beyond science and the schools, whenever this nucleus has burst its confines, it has never failed to spread unusual splendor, and attract superior admiration.

Could teachers be found equal to the important task, they have the temerity to undertake, there would be no danger in trusting young and ingenious minds to their care; but this can never be the case. Men of talents who answer this excellent description, cannot condescend to the servility of indiscriminate instruction, and though it is the peculiar felicity of such, so invariably allied is merit to philanthropy, to foster and encourage young hope and tender expectation, all that can be done is, to catch now and then a ray from the splendour of their reputation.

To cure the presumption of mistaken talents, and check the arrogant pretensions of ignorant instructors, it has been my constant maxim to hold out one general rule. Let nature alone. It will then easily be seen whether the propensity to excel originates from an innate and governing principle of genius, or a fond inclination to accomplish that of which nature has denied the means. If the first, improvement will ensue from observation, and produce an ardour and a perseverance. If the latter, observation will only create confusion, a listlessness will follow, and the pursuit will be given up.

Both these are desirable ends, for we have thus preserved persevering genius and discomfited ignorant pretension. But says precaution, are you not afraid lest that very force of mind, that very strength of imagination, on which you so firmly rely, should run riot and be vitiated? Not at all. Nature has nothing of this, place her in whatever point of view you please. I cannot put my position stronger, than by saying that, take her on the side of the passions, she is all ingeniousness, all innocence, all purity; nor was she ever known to be corrupted but through her intercourse with manners; and this system of moral perfection will be impressed on the minds of those who imitate her, who will contemplate her beauties with delight, who will display them to every advantage, and whose activity of mind will not let them rest till, by that degree of excellence, of which their talents are capable, they have gratefully repaid her for her instruction.

I shall be instantly answered, that study thus advised, will be obnoxious to infinite errors. So much the better. Errors may be got rid of; perfection never can be taught. At the same time, I will allow that the road is dangerous. It is not, however, impervious; for, as in life, so here there is an unerring clue and a faithful guide. If we pursue fancy we shall bewilder our imaginations, and arrive fatigued at the palace of folly; if we are careful to follow truth, we shall go confidently forward, till we gradually approach the temple of wisdom.

I shall not go into this argument diffusively. I premise a subject, and I mean to abide by it. In all imitative studies, one single hint furnished by strong conception will go farther towards perfection than a thousand rules; nay, it will convey a portion of perfection strong enough to call for the etablishment of new rules. I acknowledge that the contrary will often happen, but still the experiment ought to be risked, for it will ever have in it something of novelty; and that mind which is sufficiently under the influence of inspiration, for it is no less, to invent, will find no difficulty in acquiring sufficient art to correct, and indeed what is generally called design, as it relates to the portraiture of nature, demands

more immediately this strength of mind, and this inspired degree of conception, than any other imitative study, because art is always fallible, nature always inimitable.

There is yet a much stronger reason, in my humble idea, why those who design should not only keep nature constantly in view, but teach themselves to be most jealously cautious to escape the seductions of art. Nature is full of careless beauty, always impressive, always interesting. Art is composed of squared and measured proportion, always regular, and always tedious. Art is always the same; Nature is varied to infinity. It follows, therefore, that those who rely upon nature are constantly amused, and urged, and stimulated, to manifest all their intuitive powers, while those who go on plodding in the trammels of art, arrive at length at a certain bourne, become mannerists, and are incapable of penetrating an inch farther.

Art is often said to partake of the sublime; but unfortunately the nearer it approaches to this quality, according to its general acceptation, the further it recedes from nature; for the sublimity of art knows nothing of simplicity, and the sublimity of nature is precisely derived from simplicity; one is a creation of fancy, the other a manifestation of truth; one is wrought into form, the other is possessed of animation; one is all body, the other all mind. The very aukwardness of nature is graceful, while the best symmetry of art will never be divested of aukwardness. The whole of this argument therefore, resolves itself into a single observation. Let art no further prune, regulate and remove exuberances, that than nature may be protected and matured.

I have been, perhaps, more particular in dwelling on these points, because I am nearly interested in establishing their truth; for if this advice, which in the present instance has been taken because I gave it, should turn out upon proof to be wholesome and rational, I shall have good cause to rejoice that I have succeeded in my solicitude to give public satisfaction. If it be found that I have been too forward in recommending that which had better have waited for riper maturity, I shall yet be forgiven the officiousness in favour of the zeal; and so

well do I know the public, that, if I may judge by a very long and confirmed experience, their indulgenee is as prompt, as their disapprobation is reluctant, therefore, in either case, success to a certain degree is infallible.

As however this is not a common case, and this interest has a tenderer motive than usually accompanies introductions of this kind, I cannot but deprecate all possible blame, by an honest relation of the gradual steps which have induced me to trust the effusions of a strong, but inexperienced mind, to public examination. I have for some years noticed something much beyond mere inclination in my daughter for drawing; watching this, I have convinced myself, by a number of unerring proofs, that these symptoms would infallibly in time produce a confirmed talent; and, as these indications never remitted, I knew there was no necessity to refine it by having recourse to instruction; I therefore, without seeming to give it more than general encouragement, kept it as much as I could in her mind, merely in the way of amusement, and in the mean time induced little sallies and experiments, by which I assured myself that the discovery was certain and established; the whole time resisting every thing abstruse in instruction, but eagerly catching at liberal advice.

When I began my tour, and knew decidedly that the variety of objects on the way would rouse every spark of ingenuity in her mind, and call forth the whole force of that merit she possessed, when every day convinced me by her remarks, that she became richer in mental resources, and when I found that she began to manifest a most extraordinary taste and variety in grouping figures, that it mattered nothing to her at what point she began, or by what routine she effected her purpose; and, in particular, that there was every where general truth, and nothing in any part egregiously wrong, I was sure of my fact, and was determined, as soon as a proper opportunity might arrive, that the public should fairly decide upon it.

I was in a stronger degree induced to this by a recollection, a most flattering and delicious recollection, of what has happened to myself. Uninstructed in every thing except by nature, observation and experience, I have ever submitted

my humble exertions unequivocally to that protection which never was solicited in vain. During the whole of my career, however, I have invariably held the essence of able doctrines in veneration, though I may sometimes, perhaps, have smiled at their perversion and sophistication. How far my conduct has been blamable or praise-worthy, I leave with the public. At any rate, this is neither the time nor the place to make the inquiry, nor should I have introduced the subject, had I not conceived that I could not trust the cion in better ground than that which has nourished the plant.

To those who feel the force of these motives, I have not perhaps said more than enough; to others, who are indifferent about them, I may have said too much. To you, whose protection this letter is written to intreat, for reasons, which, though I strongly feel, I will not here express, but which, to save me the necessity of explaining, public admiration will readily anticipate. I hope I have not advanced what your infinitely superior judgment will find ground essentially to vary from. At any rate, so tenacious am I in my resolution, not in any respect to commit my friends, that I have no intreaty to you, but that you will afford your countenance upon the subject of this address, exactly so far as it is worthily excited.

It is very natural for affection to lean to the impulse of its proper bias; and even should I have counted in these my sentiments fallaciously, no possible radical objection can attach to a partiality so induced. I hope, therefore, taking every consideration into the argument, that I have not let an ardour to stamp a public estimation on, certainly faulty, but yet, taken for what they are, singularly meritorious efforts, carry me further than a pardonable, perhaps a laudable intrusion; and that you, in common with every other description of the judicious, will consider these trifles as entitled to such encouragement as may lead to exertions of higher value.

I am, dear Sir,
Most sincerely your admirer,
And obedient servant,

Leicester-Place,
Sept. 25, 1801.

C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XV.

CORNWALL.

THE REV. MR. PENNECK.

DEAR SIR,

I THANK you most heartily for your kind offers of advice and assistance, which I shall find of infinite use to me in my account of CORNWALL, as your acquaintance with its localities will of course, enable you to furnish me with many particulars, which I could not possibly acquire either from reading or observation; and these will be the more welcome to me, because I am desirous of forming my intelligence, so that it may be acceptable to remote readers, by which means, different places will be reciprocally informed; and thus the inhabitants of SCOTLAND will give me as much credit for what I relate of CORNWALL, as those of CORNWALL for what I describe of SCOTLAND.

CORNWALL is a county full of natural and artificial curiosities, and distinguished by many various and extraordinary features, calculated to gratify every intelligent enquirer. It is bounded by the south, the west, and the north by the sea, and on the east by the river Tamer, which divides it from DEVONSHIRE. The length from east to west is about eighty miles; its breadth fluctuates, being in some places forty five, and in others only twenty, but its circumfererce is nearly a hundred and fifty. CORNWALL is divided into nine hundreds. It contains twenty-three market towns, a hundred and ninety-eight parishes, and takes in an æra of

nine hundred and sixty thousand acres. It is in the province of CANTERBURY, and diocese of EXETER, and sends forty-four members to parliament.

Being a narrow peninsula, and almost surrounded by the sea, the air in CORNWALL cannot possibly be free from exhalations, and therefore it has but little dry weather. It exhibits in this respect a kind of perpetual April, for the rains in general are light and frequent, the clouds having no power to rest long in the mountains, which are rather collected together in one body, in the form of a ridge, than swelling in large and expanded masses lying in the ocean, and being constantly subject to imbibe the sea salt, which, in every part impregnates the air; no plants but such as are kept under shelter, can possibly thrive, it therefore naturally resembles all situations so exposed; and it is on this account that high trees are as little known in the western extremity of ENGLAND, as in the western islands of SCOTLAND.

The principal rivers are the Tamer, which crosses the whole country, the Loo, the Fowey, the Fal, the Heyl, the Alan, and some others, of which, however, these are the sourse. There is no river fish of any particular estimation, except great varieties of the trout, some of which, to my knowledge, are very fine, particularly one sort which is caught near LOSTWITHIEL. Salmon peal is also found there in great perfection; but this is not properly a river fish. There is after all, some danger in indulging too much in fish in several parts of the county, for many of the brooks are infected by the mundick water of the mines, which, being very often fatal to the fish, cannot be very wholesome to those who eat it.

As the coast of CORNWALL is visited by fish of innumerable descriptions, it may not be amiss to select the names and qualities of some few which are generally known. That species of whale called the physeter or blower, which LINNEUS describes as the terror of the porpoises, has been frequently seen near the coast, and also crouds of porpoises. Blue sharks visit the Cornish shore in the pilchard season, and do considerable mischief to the fishing nets, so that the fishermen are under the necessity of procuring hooks to catch them, though I don't find they

are of any use. The thrasher, so called from its long tail, with which it strikes its enemy, and the grampus are also visitors of CORNWALL; the porteagle, another description of shark, the monk, or angel fish, something between a dog-fish and ray, and the sea-devil, appear upon this coast in different seasons.

The turbot, plaice, dab, flounder, holybut, sole, conger-eel, many sorts of gurnards, and a prodigious variety of other fish line the shores and glut the markets. The scarcest, though indeed those are plenty enough, are the dory, and the sir mullet, both of which have always been considered as great delicacies, from the time of QUIN up to this hour. That epicure, however, certainly raised the reputation of the dory beyond its value, for at BATH it could not have been superior to turbot, and its pretentions at any time are not much beyond it. It is remarkable, however, that when the flesh comes off in smooth fleaks, instead of being in substance like a curd, which is often the case, it is infinitely finer eating. I have been told in CORNWALL, that in its latter state it is in some degree diseased, by lying too near the mouths of rivers; and therefore it is in better health at PENZANCE than at FALMOUTH. As to the sir mullet, with its beautiful red fins, it is in my humble judgment, for I am no table amateur, the finest of sea fish. It is called by cooks, the sea woodcock; the liver of the fish, and the trail of the bird, serving alike for sauce.

Muscles, limpits, cockles, wrinkles, crabs, the long oyster, lobsters, shrimps, and a wonderful variety of other shell fish, are also caught on this coast in great abundance; but the most extraordinary instance of the immense abundance of fish on the coast of CORNWALL, are the myriads of pilchards, by which many of those fish of prey already noticed, are invited into the British Channel. CORNWALL is visited by herrings and sprats, and in large shoals; but the pilchards for number are greatly beyond calculation, and almost beyond belief; and, when we consider that we only get the refuse of the shark and the porpoise, among the fish, and the sea-gull among the birds, what are we to think of between four and five hundred thousand being caught at a single draught, which I am competent to confirm, having actually seen it; and that in these swarms they are found in MOUNT'S-BAY, from July to November.

The process of catching pilchards I witnessed from the summit of MOUNT ST. MICHAEL. The nets were spread to a great extent, I was told half a mile, which I could hardly conceive, though distance upon the surface of water is deceitful. A variety of struggles were easily discernable, occasioned of course by conflicts under water, both with weapons of their natural enemies in their own element, aud the snares of their artificial ones in ours; nor was this all they had to contend with: a cloud of sea-gulls were hovering round the circle described by the net, and so sure as any of the pilchards, either by being entangled in the mashes, or impeded in their course, were impelled towards the surface, they were borne off in a scream of triumph. I cannot finish this paragraph without noticing that the proprietors of that fishery, during the season I am speaking of, furnished the miners and their families pilchards to the value of three hundred pounds, and the salt necessary to cure them, for the trouble of fetching them away. I was witness to the benedictions of hundreds, which were showered down on those gentlemen to whom this gratitude was so nobly due, one of whom was your relation, Mr. St. AUBIN.

As CORNWALL gives me abundant opportunity of noticing a number of objects interesting to curious readers, and as I never can have so good an opportunity of submitting my reflections so safely as to you, who are enabled, both by your own knowledge, and the evidence of that experience which surrounds you in the first museum in the world, where you are a resident member, I shall enlarge on my general plan, and mention under this head more than it has been, or will be my custom to speak of in other places, unless where I may be induced by similar motives. I shall therefore go on to birds, and afterwards to minerals.

I love birds; nor can I conceive any thing so exquisitely beautiful to the mind as a contemplation of the wonderful and various properties assigned to them by Providence, which blend at once such perfection in symmetry, and such power to provide and sustain all their natural wants, that there is not a feather placed in vain, nor an action that does not inspire a fervent adoration of their Creator and ours. I shall first describe the birds that we are told are peculiar to CORNWALL; and it will be right to divide them into such as are perennial, and remain there,

and those that are migratory, and return at certain seasons after a fixed period of absence.

Of the first kinds are many sorts of hawks, such as the sparrow-hawk, which is an obedient and docile bird, and may be made to hunt partridges. The hobby, which formerly used to be trained for larks, and which contrary to our Cornish intelligence, is said to migrate in October, and the lanner, a species of buzzard; but the most curious bird met with in CORNWALL, is the chough, which, though it builds its nest upon inaccessible cliffs, may yet be so tamed as to be reduced to an extraordinary fearfulness. It steals and hides money like the magpie; and though it has the most soft and soothing voice when fed or fondled, yet it shrieks fearfully at any strange or unexpected object.

The singing birds are blackbirds and thrushes, of which the missel is the most beautiful, and the throstle the best singer. There are also green and brown linnets, goldfinches, ruddocks, or robins, bullfinches, larks, and many others, but it is remarkable there are no nightingales. The green wood-pecker, and the golden-crested wren, both very beautiful birds, are common in CORNWALL, the last is supposed to be, except the humming bird, the smallest in nature. BUFFON mentions having seen one, that when it was picked was not an inch long.

The stormfinch, called pitterel by some, and peterel by others, is also found here. This is a small bird, and it is formed in a particular manner either for flying or swimming. The wings are extended to an inch beyond the tail, and the legs are very slender, with webbed feet, and a small claw on each heel without a toe. These birds are said to rove all over the Atlantic ocean, and have been seen many hundred leagues from shore. As they are never observed but when the sea is in agitation, the sailors always fancy they forebode a storm. They fly like swallows, and skim on the surface of the waves, let their motion be ever so violent. There are many more things related of these birds, which would be better entitled to our attention if the account did not close by an information that they are called peterals, from ST. PETER, because they walk on the water.

Of the migrating birds there are swallows, and it has been affirmed that many of these have been found in old tin works, and in the holes of cliffs; but as this doctrine is now very little insisted on, any more than their having been discovered in a torpid state; for on the contrary, successful experiments have been made to prove, that swallows would continue with us all the winter, if they could be comfortable, and get any thing to eat; it would be as absurd as it is upon other accounts impossible to go into it here. Of sea fowls there are coots, sunderlins, gannets, murres, herons, bitterns, lapwings, curlews, bernacles, and shaggs, so that there is scarcely a fish or a fowl that may not be found either in CORNWALL, or on its coast.

The excessive and astonishing number of insects that infest CORNWALL, would poison the earth and choke the atmosphere, did they not become first a prey to one another in proportion to their size, and at length to birds and beasts. This, however, is not particular to CORNWALL, but only true to an unusual extent. The number of insects belonging to the water are of course the most multitudinous; but these the fish in great measure exhaust, for like the pilchards, nothing can exterminate them. I shall mention some of the most material.

The polypes of CORNWALL are found in great numbers, enclosed in alcyoniums, coralines, corals, marbles, and other stones, and also in branchy fucusses. These polypes are clusters of almost imperceptible animals. We are informed that one of them is only the two hundred and fortieth part of an inch, and in shape something like a bell. The sea slug is like a dew snail, and of beautiful purple colour; a long sea worm, but by no means of the eel tribe, is found in MOUNT'S BAY. As to the land insects, the varieties are beyond enumeration; they are one above another, from the size of a mote scarcely discernable by a microscope, to the turbinated snail, which serves as a rich food to fatten sheep.

Having gone into this, perhaps, too minutely for general enquirers, though not enough for curious ones, I shall trouble you no further at present, than while I touch on those minerals, which are found in CORNWALL, and which constitute the greatest part of its riches.

As all accounts of the generation of minerals have been full of surmise, fancy, and imagination, and have began with hope and ended in delusion, I shall on this subject follow the miner rather than the chymist; and, instead of enquiring how those ores, that are dug from the bowels of the earth for the use of man originated, grew, and matured, shew with what ingenuity they have been applied to ornament us, and contribute to our convenience. I do not mean, however, to decry chymistry, for it has brought to light a number of admirable advantages, and I heartily wish that those who have risked fortunes in this or any other pursuit for the benefit of mankind, had been better remunerated. I only mean to say, that in this work, I shall as much as possible shun conjecture, and stick to certainty.

Wherever minerals are found in great plenty, the earth is so much in its nature diversified, that not only every species of mineral is in a degree discovered, but every thing curious and uncommon is to be expected from the nature and contexture of the soil. Clay proper for bricks, marle that will burn like peat, slate of a shelly nature, loom closely compacted, ochrous earths, some chalk, white clay, that has been considered as proper to make porcelain, yellow clay, the best that can be for building furnaces, of which large quantities are carried to Bristol and into Wales; bricks made of this clay will melt and vitrify, and will be afterwards incapable of change by any process. These are all to be found in Cornwall, and also steatites, or clays of a greasy substance; some are of a colour as bright as Naples yellow, this soil serves as excellent manure for grass land, there can be no doubt but that it is in its nature a kind of marle.

There is another species of steatites which is white, of which but in a much more refined state, is the Soap Rock near the Lizard. This clay is of a pure white, and it is close grained; it quickly dissolves in water; it is without taste; it becomes greasy when mixed with oil, but it will not ferment with aqua-fortis. It is absorbent in the nature of what we call French chalk, and will take spots out of silk without injuring the colour. The rock produces a great variety of this clay, according as it continues pure or becomes mixed with earths of other qualities, the colour always altering according to circumstances. It is pearl colour,

green, black, purple, and of a number of intermediate tinges, in proportion as it partakes of other earths, or perhaps imbibes extraneous qualities from the oozings from the shores, or the sprays from the sea, conveyed by storms or other strong efforts of nature.

Stones in CORNWALL are altogether as various as earths, which is not to be wondered at, when we consider that it is a mountainous country, and consists principally of various rocky substances. I shall, however, no farther enlarge on this subject, than to shew in what careful order the hand of nature has placed the different strata of materials which pervade her domain, and the state in which that unity would but for elementary convulsions for ever endure, did not the curious aud restless labours of man, wound her in every part, to supply materials for his pride and pleasure.

When the hill was dug through, on which is placed ST. AGNES's beacon, which is four hundred and eighty feet from the level of the sea, the strata were disposed in the following order. The vegetable soil and common rubble under it was five feet deep, next came the fine sort of white and yellow clay fit to make tobacco pipes, which continued six feet lower. Under this was a stratum of sand six feet deep, like that found on the sea shore; after this came a quantity of rounded pebbles like those on beaches; then succeeded a white stony rubble or earth for six feet more; and, lastly, they came to the solid rock, where lay the tin lodes; these I shall hereafter describe. They take all manner of directions, of which by their symptoms the miner knows how to find the most productive sorts. Perhaps nothing has excited more curiosity or more argument than this inexplicable mystery of finding sea sand and pebbles locked up within the bosom of the earth, with so much eveness and regularity; not a single traceable circumstance that can lead to conjecture, much less to proof of the cause, but many reasons to credit that they have been in the same tranquillity from the beginning of time, till Cornish miners began to search for tin. How disgraceful for human knowledge, that so much learning, skill and calculation, should thus, in this chase of altercation, be thrown out. For my part, I am content simply to revere every extraordinary operation of nature which I cannot explain.

As I am getting into length, and it will be necessary to give this subject, though a brief yet a regular discussion, I shall break off at present, with an entreaty that you will furnish me with your remarks, and on assurance that I am

My dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, Your obliged humble Servant,

Dec. 9, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XVI.

CORNWALL.

THE REV. MR. PENNECK.

DEAR SIR,

As I am not fond of an anticlimax, I shall say something of those ores, which almost extend to every description and are found in CORNWALL through the continual perquisitions of the Miners.

The semi-metals found in CORNWALL are bismuth, speltre, zink, naptha-antimony, lapis calaminaris, and molybdena. To none of these however, particularly the latter of them, has it been considered worth while to direct any attention on account of the uncertainty of finding them, and the small and imperfect quantities that have been found. Solid antimony has been found in branches of two feet broad in the parish of ENDELIAN; and MANGANESE, which is a ferruginous mineral by which glass is tempered and brought to its proper lustre, has been discovered near St. COLOMBE. In this lode, which is so near the surface that a ton has been raised for eighteen pence, has been found lapis hæmatitis, and near PENRYN branches of the load stone have been discovered, but it had not a very attractive power.

When the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce offered thirty pounds for the best cobalt discovered in ENGLAND, the miners in

CORNWALL went to work and about GWEMAP found some that obtained the premium, It is well known that arsenic, as well as zaffer and smalt, so useful for staining glass, and in painting, are procured from cobalt. After this first essay however from the difficulty of distinguishing it from the various ore in the mine, and the time necessary to select it, this search has been neglected for more profitable employments. It were however to be wished that it could be effected, because that which we procure from abroad is sometimes very indifferent and always very dear.

But of all the semi-metals produced in CORNWALL, mundic is found in the greatest plenty, for it is generally mixed with tin, lead, and copper, and sometimes makes a lode or vein of itself, without the least trace of any metal near it. This extraordinary substance is by some called a pyrites, but the naturalists know it best by name of marquisate. By its weight and colour it seems to be a metal, and it is called mundic by the Cornish, from the shining appearance of its surface and structure.

Mundic is thought to be a composition of arsenic, sulphur, vitriol, and mercury; and, however the contrary has been maintained, the water which passes over it must, in some degree, be poisonous; for, though it has cured wounds and bruises, it has also caused gangrenes. It sickens fish, kills their spawn, and destroys vegetation. Mundic is always pointed out by a discovery of copper, to which it plentifully adheres, but from which, it may easily be separated; but, its nature is so corrosive, that when it unites with tin, it gives it a brittleness which renders it of little use. The only remedy in this case is to cause the mundic to lose its influence by evaporation, but this is a tedious, an uncertain, and a very unwholesome operation; for, by dispersing the sulphur which sheaths the poisonous particles of the arsenic, the smoke cannot be borne without covering the nose and mouth; it destroys herbs and plants, and kills all small animals within its reach, and in particular it is fatal to bees.

Silver has been found in CORNWALL, so has pure virgin gold, but neither to to any amount worthy attention, though both have been of the most valuable

kind; but such illusive symptoms have facilitated those credulous hopes, that, as all metals appear to be connected, and most gold and silver are found in the warmest climates, an artificial process through the medium of heat might perform that in a short time, which nature takes centuries to bring about; a delusion that though it has been fatal to the fortunes of many individuals, has nevertheless produced discoveries of infinite general benefit.

Lead mines have been worked in CORNWALL for more than two hundred years. It is generally of that sort called potter's ore. It has been encouraged, however, to no great extent, for this is the poorest sort; and a ton of this lead has fetched no more, when dressed, than eight pounds, though in that quantity has sometimes been found a hundred and forty ounces of silver. Copper is more general, and has been worked to better advantage. The yellow ore, which contains a great deal of mundic, sells for eighteen pounds a ton. The green ores, for there are several, are either almost entirely verdigrise, very heavy and glossy, and have nothing of stone or rust, flaky, of a close contecture, and cohering in tubes; and some others, which are all considered as rare and curious. There is a blue ore so extremely fine in colour and texture, as to appear a powder of lapiz lazuli. The grey ore, when it is uniformly a lead colour throughout, is worth from fifty to sixty pounds a ton. The red ore, sometimes called the fire ore, is more valuable than any of those already mentioned; but the most perfect ore is the malleable, which, from its purity, is called the virgin ore.

The difference between digging for tin and copper is not very material; but they are by no means dressed and prepared alike. The copper mines have underground overseers, called captains, to take care that the different ores are well separated, and the richest kept apart from the rest. The different masses are then broken, raised, washed, stampt, and sorted into particular heaps, all which is performed for about one-tenth part of the produce when sold. Agents for the copper companies of WALES and BRISTOL, who reside at TRURO and REDRUTH, attend to sample the ore, and then the value is determined. After this it is shipped off to be melted and refined; and the produce has been found so lucrative, that in nine

days as much copper has been in this manner collected, as sold for nine thousand pounds.

It would be endless to endeavour at a description of all the fossels and minerals that are to be found in CORNWALL, and indeed I have gone beyond propriety on this subject already, but some account of the tin mines are nevertheless indispensible. I shall, however, touch as slightly as possible on the subject, considering its capability of affording satisfaction to the curious, and its great importance to that county which principally exists by it.

Tin either insinuates itself by lodes, or lies in floors. Lodes are the veins that run through fissures and fill up their sides or walls, and thus they branch in all directions, even through the minutest interstices like so many threads. Nothing, I think, can give so faithful a resemblance as the dry rot in wood. Floors are horizontal layers of the tin ore to a vast extent, and therefore would be very productive could they be conveniently worked; but they lie at a great depth, and therefore it is expensive and dangerous to get at them. One experiment of this kind proved fatal; for, in spight of the assistance of strong timber with which it is neeessary to secure the passages of the mine, the ground at BEL-AN-UUN to a large compass fell in, and buried all the miners within its reach.

Tin is also found in spots and bunches in the body of the rock; and, when discovered in granite, these are sometimes so large and so numerous, that they make ample amends for the trouble in procuring them, even though the miner is obliged to blow up the rock, and break it afterwards with sledge hammers to get at the tin. Tin is also found in stones, and one would think the miners considered ore as the vital circulation by which the growth of rocks is kept up and accelerated, for when a large number of those stones are found together, they call them beuheyl, which means in the Cornish language a living stream, or body; and for the same reason, when a stone has a small portion of tin or other ore attached to it, they say it is just alive; but if it has none, they pronounce it to be dead.

Tin is sometimes found among the slime and sands of rivers, and on the sea shore, to which situations there is no doubt, but it has been washed from the hills, though sometimes the sea casts it up in a pulverized state, which is probably occasioned by lodes or floors situated underneath, and fretted and agitated by storms. The barrenness of the ground very often discovers the course of a lode, and sometimes a well cultivated field will betray it by the weakness of the grass in partial directions.

When we consider the variety of gradations in the process of rendering tin fit for use, it is astonishing how we obtain it so reasonably. The methods in mining are full of keeness and sagacity, nor can they often be twice alike. As a ship is impelled by the wind, and a hound by the scent, so is the miner by symptoms that rouse equal sagacity. When the lode is found, the first step is to remove all obstructions to the pursuit of it, the barren rock and rubble must be cleared away, the water must be discharged, for all tin lodes are embarrassed with water; to do this various engines are requisite, but the fire engine invented for draining coal pits has been found the most efficacious.

When these preliminary steps have been taken, the tin is raised and carried to the stamping mill, having been first broken, sorted, washed, and weighed in a kind of stilliards, called a van, which for every penny-weight and a half will ascertain a hundred weight of block tin. At the stamping mill, if it is found to be slimy, and not in a fit condition to pass the grate, it is thrown into what is called a buddle, or pit, made however of wood with perforations, to let the water and slimy matter pass off. In this frame stands a man bare footed, with a trampling shovel in his hand, to cast up the ore upon a square board placed before him as high as his middle. This is termed the buddle head; thus, by trampling and shovelling, the ore becomes more and more refined, and then it is carried to another buddle, to undergo a similar process.

After repeated buddlings, the tin is carried to a large vat called a keeve, filled about one third with water. The dresser now stirs round the water with a shovel, while the ore is gradually and gently put into the vessel, in which it is tossed and

stirred till the keeve is almost filled. This vat is then beaten with mallets at the sides near the top, till the whole is settled hard, which operation is called packing. It is easy to conceive that it may take very little labour or a great deal to get the ore into a refined state, according as the impurities are easy or difficult to get rid of, and till it is pure it must repeatedly undergo the ceremony of buddling and packing,

The tin being thus dressed, it is carried in sacks upon horses to the smelting houses, where it is essayed and melted in a reverberatory furnace, after which it is put into moulds, and so shaped into blocks of about three hundred and twenty pounds, and then carried to one of the coinage towns. The coinage towns are TRURO, PENZANCE, HELSTONE, LESKARD, and LOSTWITHIEL. At these the tin is essayed, and if found sufficiently purified, the face of the block is stampt with the seal of the dutchy, and this authorizes the owner to sell it. Every hundred weight of white tin pays to the Duke of CORNWALL four shillings, and the bounders and proprietors of soil receive about a sixth of the whole, which I think I was told in CORNWALL, amounts to forty thousand pounds. This estimation makes the gross produce two hundred and forty thousand pounds, and the Duke of CORNWALL's proportion about thirteen thousand three hundred pounds; but I think this calculation is rather under than over the mark; perhaps you can ascertain for me the exact truth.

I have always remarked that bad roads are a symptom of being near a manufacturing town, because men may be better paid for their labour at the loom or the forge than in the gravel pit. Upon the same principle it is rational to suppose that mining is unfriendly to husbandry, and so indeed are mines, for the surface of the earth is naturally sterile in such countries, and when good manure is difficult to be had, or else procured expensively, the inhabitants cannot be paid so well as by pursuing their habitual occupations. Upon this account there have been times when SOMERSETSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE hired the pasture grounds of CORNWALL, to fodder cattle, and in return supplied them with corn and bread.

As, however, the inhabitants, principally in consequence of the prosperity of the sea ports, encreased, and additional settlements were made, their eyes were

opened by those advantages their neighbours had made of their possessions; they applied to husbandry, and not only found in time a sufficient quantity of corn for their own consumption, but exported a large overplus. Their manure is brought from the sea, which, as the face of the shore is extensive and the distance small, is easily procured. The sea-wreck, several fucuses, and ore weed make excellent manure for corn; spoilt pilchards also, and the salt that has been used for curing, are found admirably adapted to these lands; which, managed with great judgement, for without that these crude materials might be injurious rather than beneficial, have been found productive in a great degree. Thus they cultivate several sorts of grass, turnips and potatoes; they have also wheat, barley, rye, and what are called naked oats, and in some places near the LIZARD the barley has been ripe and fit for market nine weeks after it has been sown; but after all they find mining every day so encreasingly productive, that they now grow no more corn than will serve their own use and sometimes not so much. CORNWALL is frequently supplied with wheat from the Isle of WIGHT.

The husbandry of this county might yet be greatly improved, and with less labour perhaps than is bestowed on it at present. Their ploughs and carriages are inconvenient, and the fences, which are of stone and turf, might be made of quickset intermixed with young trees of oak, ash, elm, and sycamore. This would be easier managed, have a more beautiful effect, and furnish the inhabitants with better shelter and more fuel. How much easier also would it be to raise the flax and make the thread for pilchard nets, which would usefully employ women and children, than to send for the materials, and often for the nets themselves to BRIDPORT in DORSETSHIRE.

The inhabitants of CORNWALL are of a middle stature, they are healthy, strong and active, and live in general to a great age. Eighty or ninety is a common age. We are told of a man who lived to be a hundred and thirty, and a woman a hundred and sixty four; and, at the LIZARD, a place greatly exposed, a clergyman died at a hundred and twenty, and the sexton who dug his grave was above a hundred.

The inhabitants are remarkably civil to strangers. I have met at least a hundred of small sturdy horses loaded with black bags of tin for the smelting house, and have admired with what solicitude the drivers have made them file off to the right and left to let me pass. I could instance much more of this species of civility, which it has never been my lot in the same unadulterated degree to witness, as among the common people in CORNWALL and SCOTLAND. A strong proof to me that men in that simplicity of manners which is the honesty of nature, are more entitled to our esteem, than those who gloss over an artificial conduct, and ingratiate themselves by deportment, the result of fallacy and insincerity. Politeness may be reasonably suspected, civility may be trusted unconditionally; just as a man who hates flattery may love praise. In short, politeness, being the mere grace of civility, and introduced by ceremony, is generally hypocritical, but civility being radically a quality, and springing from intention, must be sincere.

Rudeness is the assumption of a quality on the other side of civility; it arrogates a superiority to which it has no sterling pretensions. It stands for plain dealing, but it means insult; like the action of the man who ran against DIOGENES with his load, and afterwards told him to stand out of the way. "What," said the cynic, "do you mean to hit me again?" Let every man therefore suspect politeness, guard against rudeness, and cherish civility.

I had no idea that the Cornish miners would have lured me into so much reflection.

Yours, my dear sir,

Leicester-Place, With thanks for your patience,

Dec. 24, 1030. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XVII.

CIRCULATING LIBRARIES.

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

THOUGH I do not assume in this work the character of a general censor, much less a literary Herculus, I should be unfaithful to my professions, if I did not pick my steps as I go on, and clear away such filth as would otherwise obstruct or annoy me. I consider myself as bound to this by my preliminary letter; and I should have to accuse myself of the grossest injustice upon that ground, were I to pass by the subject of the present address, to which you will not allow this to be too strong a preface, when I tell you that it treats of circulating libraries.

When I talk of literature, and the prodigious mass of genius and erudition which has emanated in this country, from minds blessed with talents perhaps superior to any that have enlightened the world; when I talk of the works of celebrated foreigners, whose invention and learning, whose sentiments and opinions have illustrated their own countries and ornamented the countries of others; when I talk of these, I talk of nothing in common with circulating libraries, those drains, those common sewers, whence issue nothing but the dregs, the very fœces of the press.

I shall not examine in what manner these poisonous repositories promote knavery and intrigue, by raffling and gambling. I shall only shew how they disseminate profligacy from their shelves; and in this, though they were always bad enough, they are now become truly lamentable. If FIELDING complained of the negleƈt of the public and their inattention to works of merit, in favour of flimsy translations of French novels, what would he say were he now alive, to the miserable abortions of women, journey-women, mantua-makers, milliners, school-boys, and boarding-school misses, cut into size by the scissors of a low bred and illiterate bookseller, incapable of estimating the value of letters but by their weight.

Though it can scarcely be believed, nothing can be more true that this literary daw, this walking catalogue, this sworn enemy of poor priscian, this fancied favourite of the muses, whose inspirations he could not read were they written, much less could he conceive; this pragmatical regent, in the absence of reason, over the empire of letters, shall circulate from that pandora's box his printing-office, without the most distant ray of hope at the bottom, in the shapes as he calls them of new novels, all the evils of life. The contagion spreads, the infeƈtion takes; the impression is certain. He gets the country bookseller into his debt if he be an adventurer, if not, he sets up some creature of his own in opposition to the fair and respeƈtable dealer. This man does his dirty work for him; the catalogues, though spelt by somebody else, are diƈtated by himself; and the prominent condition is to furnish a supply, not of good, but of new books; and thus, as if it were for its sins, is the press perpetually groaning, till whole warehouses were filled with fashion, folly, vapidity, and dullness.

There is not a bookseller in the kingdom but knows this faƈt, how it bears, and who are included in the very few against whom it presses; and, as I am truly desirous of possessing the good opinions of reputable booksellers in the country, from many of whom I have received much attention and civility, I cannot but be entitled to a considerable share of their consideration from this letter, which is honestly meant as a compliment to real genius, and to those who

worthily dispense such exertions as delight the human mind by affording it improvement.

Were the evil, however, of which I complain, no worse than I have hitherto stated, I should not give myself the trouble to go into it; for, though mere folly is not always pardonable it may be occasionally allowed; but under the leaves of these exotics and non descripts lurks a serpent and in the honey distilled from their flowers is infused a poison.

I have shewn in another place how full of humiliation and contrition was the abjuration of LA FONTAINE, on his death bed, for having disseminated so much immorality through the medium of his truly poetic, but shamefully lascivious, tales. We know that the poems of ROCHESTER have diffused more licenciousness than he himself, vile as he was, ever practised or meditated, and every man, who thinks tenderly and honourably of women and who wishes to withold even a chance of sullying the purity of feminine delicacy, must allow that CLELAND and his infamous book ought to have been burnt by the same hangman.

If I should be asked whether a declaration that these productions are in existence will not rather awaken curiosity than beget disgust, and that I may thus injure the cause I profess to serve, I shall answer that the caution is useless. The books are known, and acknowledged; sums of money are given for reprinting the letter press and touching up the plates, and an insinuation of them generally through the means of confidential female servants, into the dressing rooms of young ladies and the boxes of boarding school misses, is a prominent feature in that system of seduction universally taught in the school of CHESTERFIELD, and sedulously dilated on by young men of fashion who have lately taken up, so consciously and with such warmth, the subject of *crim con.* but, as if this were not enough, the essense of these infamous publications comes out every day in some novel dress from the circulating libraries.

I know not if it arises from a distorted inclination in the human mind to seek for vice rather to discover virtue, but for one book calculated to inspire an ad-

miration of every thing good and moral, there are twenty that expose every thing revolting and detestable; and thus we become familiar with what we ought to shun, and strange to what we ought to imitate. What is the operation of this? The female mind, naturally timid, which is its most lovely characteristic, by a constant and familiar intercourse with dread and terror, becomes at length indifferent if not callous to sensations which spring from delicacy and are regulated by decorum. The clangour of bars, bolts, and chains, are music; Poinards, and daggers, no longer gleam with horror on their imaginations; the purple blood of brothers, fathers and husbands, streams by unheeded; rape, and murder, grow as common as other words; phantoms, and goblins, as intimate as other objects; and the same preparations serve the purposes of an assignation; whether with a lover or a ghost.

But it is not enough eternally to present to us these hideous pictures and keep the mind perpetually on the stretch of astonishment; the infamy must be uncommon and unnatural, skocking and monstrous; such as for the honour of human nature, if it exists at all, exists so very rarely that it never should be brought to light but smothered in the birth, like all other hateful and disgusting objects. As it is, inoffensive and inexperienced minds are taught to reason upon dreadful and horrid crimes out of their natural conception or belief; till they become so accustomed to that most immoral and unmanly of vices indecency as to admit it, with all its enormity, as one of those common errors which intrude into the manners of society.

Indeed it is impossible to find terms of sufficient strength to express the indignation and abhorrence which every honest man must feel on a conviction that this malignant poison is universally infused into tender and innocent minds, for every man has some relative ties by which the exercise of morality becomes dear to him. What can be said when it is notorious that there is a book, received by every body, read by every body, lent out at every circulating library in the kingdom, put into the hands of young men and young girls, the topic of every conversation, the common town talk, and yet so full of broad wickedness, so fraught with profligate impudence;

such a violation of all law human and divine, such a system of irreligion, such a wanton mockery of every thing good and virtuous, written in terms fit only for an athiest in a stew; what indeed can be said but that it is a reproach to every man of delicacy and honour, to every husband and father, to the bench of bishops, and to the country at large that this infamous book has not been publickly and ignominiously exploded; but, alas, this is not the age for any such reformation and thus shall the exercises of college students be relieved by broad blasphemy and the elements of rape and incest insinuated into boarding school education.

What then ought to be the feelings that should goad the fabricator of this infamous work? self condemned, self anathematized. Could he realize the merit of all the authors that have written, and employ that merit to wipe off the stain he has cast upon literature and religion; still would he find it indelible; did he possess millions and bestow his whole fortune in alms to expiate his trangressions, and deprecate the vengeance due to his sins against the peace and comfort of society, still would they be irremissible.

I should not have troubled either you or the readers of my work upon this subject, had I not considered it as a misfortune of a most deplorable kind that young and delicate minds should be led into a conjecture, or even a conception, that such vices as are described by these infamous books are possible, much less in common practice. As the whitest snow is soonest sullied, so the purest minds are susceptible of the strongest impressions. Who then but an enemy to truth and goodness would dare to disturb the tranquility of innocence; which, with the best and most unexceptionable examples cannot retain, except essentially, its native purity. The most usual occurrences of life, thanks to fashionable, fanciful, and fantastic doctrines, through books of an immoral tendency, leave on it a tarnish; till at length, with friends and relatives, as well as the world, duplicity becomes necessity, hypocrisy policy, and a sort of convenient distrust is considered in our dealings with one another, as a thing not only admissible, but almost indispensible.

Even this is lamentable; but, if it must be so, why are we not left to our own discretion, and the evidence of experience for conformation, that our suspicions are just or unworthy? Why are a set of needy scribblers, or fanciful women, to exaggerate nature even to caricature, with a view to influence our minds, till that which was no more than error grows into crime, and that which was venial becomes unpardonable. There is not in their writings a single passion that bears an appropriate form, attribute, or quality; and those who should take human beings from such portraiture, must of necessity allow there is nothing rational, noble, or disinterested in nature; but, as every man of conscious honour must feel and acknowledge that the reverse of this picture is the fact, it follows without any constrained interpretation, that falsehood, ignorance and immorality mixed with an unfeeling attempt to root out the principles of virtue systematically, make up the contents of circulating libraries.

That the evil exists, and to the full extent of my description, every body knows, I shall therefore now endeavour to shew how it has arisen, and which way to a certain degree it may be remedied; and here, which indeed is always the case in every prevalent evil, the fault lies with the public, who are not solicitous, to give such sort of encouragement to real merit as may immediately afford them a recompense up to the value of their labours.

I am far from saying that the public do not buy books, for they buy them with avidity, and give handsome prices for them; but where goes all the advanvantage, or where did it ever go, but to the booksellers? I allow that authors have received large sums for their copies, but the instances are very few proportionally; besides this has very seldom, perhaps never, happened on the sole consideration of actual merit, but that the advantages might be backed by collateral interest. This fact, which I could very clearly expose, is here however out of place; and I only mention it to shew that, thus discouraged, authors are reduced to use their craft rather than their talents, and thus is genius sacrificed, the bookseller enriched, and the public duped.

It has been well said, that a library is like the world, where the honest men are plundered by the impostors; what then shall we say of a circulating library,

where the impostors plunder one another? You shall see a senseless farrago seasoned with vice and indecency, go through more editions in one winter than did Tom Jones during the whole life of Fielding; and, what is more melancholy, it shall in that winter diffuse more profligacy, particularly in its influence on female weakness than all the sermons preached throughout the kingdom shall be able to eradicate in twenty years. Why is this? because good authors are not paid. The price of a pair of volumes is ten pounds. Can a man of merit condescend to work for such labourers' hire as this? What is the consequence? Authors are but men. Mortified and humiliated to the uttermost, they pervert their talents, they neglect reputation and consider interest, and those gifts by which mankind refuse to be amused and illuminated, are employed quiescently to dupe the easy and deluded world.

Sterne knew the difficulty of obtaining literary fame legitimately and rationally; and, therefore, palmed on the world a false fame, which he knew his rare and powerful talents could well bear out. The consequence was evident. Novelty is fascinating, and at first sight received and cherished; and, though awakened from the delusion, no man chuses to allow that he has been imposed upon, much less that he has imposed upon himself. Those, therefore, who read Tristram Shandy, were obliged in their own defence, to acknowledge they understood it, till at length the author, after he had stretched the string till it was on the point of cracking, by way of atonement for his duplicity, and out of caution, to shew the world how easily those who lend a prompt and credulous faith to imposition may be deceived, honestly confessed he did not understand it himself.

But the mischief does not end here; these quaintnesses become a fashion, and those scribblers who have not an idea or conception of the matter, but who can nevertheless easily imitate the manner, array themselves in it with all its glittering ornaments, nor, till the public have themselves subscribed to the imposition, discover that they have mistaken tinsel for gold.

RICHARDSON, with a display of most astonishing genius in most captivating language, has done still more mischief in another way. Putting by the puritanical Pamela, which holds out every thing but propriety, the villain Lovelace, which character a very great critic has falsely called a hero, but which every man in his senses must allow to be a vile and dastardly bravo; and his outrageously virtuous Clarissa, who plans her own misery, and is only a heroine in situations impossible for a woman to be placed in without her consent, were bad enough in him; but how have they since appeared, turned out of hand by botchers and cobblers, who have incongruously eked out their own rotten materials by the worst parts of this writer, for they could neither taste nor imitate the best, which writer after all, inimitable as he was, would have been unread but for his singularity.

Letters, as they regard men of taste and education, are now what they ever were and ever will be, felt, acknowledged, and encouraged; and, though fashion and foppery have some influence even on these, books of real value will always command their places in the libraries of the judicious and the liberal. My complaint is, that general literature is sunk and degraded, and that its public tendency has in it nothing winning, and every thing revolting. On a consideration of this I have confined myself to circulating libraries. My exposition of them is but a faint picture of what might be drawn to give their deformity its full effect. The remedy is with ourselves; and I would take as much pains to shew how it might be administered, as I have taken to describe the evil it is meant to cure, but that my arguments would be considered as fastidious, and my advice would never be followed.

I must therefore, be confined to that part of my duty, which with sincerity, if not with ability, I have discharged. I must continue to deplore, that though we get the essence, or, as the phrase is, the beauties of celebrated men, their minds and private motives are kept a mystery; that preliminary discourses, prefaces and dedications, in which their springs of action are depicted, are all abolished; that the art and ingenuity in the construction of their writings are concealed, and that while some tale of astonishment, perhaps in five volumes,

full of vicious images and passions, and crammed with rape, murder, and incest, runs through an incredible number of editions, at a high price, poor Tom Jones, with no other recommendations than truth, nature and interest, displayed in winning and natural language, is sold, in an abridged state, for eighteen pence.

Yours, my dear Sir,

very sincerely,

Leicester-Place,
Feb. 16, 1801.

C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XVII.

CORNWALL.

G. C. GEORGE. Esq.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE received your warm and friendly letter, and am happy to avail myself of those kind offers of attention it contains, I shall therefore without further ceremony pursue my route from TAVISTOCK, where I left it off in my letter addressed to my friend SHELDON of EXETER, and speak of such particulars as attracted my observation in that county one might compare to a rock oyster, which often contains a pearl under its rough coat.

The entrance to CORNWALL is very picturesque. It does not lose the character of DEVONSHIRE till you are past CALLINGTON. At this town I dined on Saturday the fourteenth of July, 1799, and slept at LESKARD each of these places sends two members to parliament. It has often been remarked, as a circumstance rather incompatible with propriety, that CORNWALL should have this privilege to a much greater proportionate degree than any county in the kingdom, forty four members being an astonishing number considering the dimensions of the province, and its having formerly consisted of no more than a few inconsiderable fishing towns, at which time, nevertheless it had all these advantages for CALLINGTON was the last town thus called upon, which was more than two hundred years ago. A consideration, however, of this kind might lead to politics, a subject that shall never obtrude itself into my observations, especially upon

this subject. The sun has spots, so perhaps may have our constitution, but still the grand luminary of nature has resplendancy enough to warm and invigorate the world, and so has the splendid and glorious system which ensures our fame and our honour sufficient power and influence to render us objects of admiration and envy to the remotest corners of the habitable globe.

By the time you arrive at LESKARD, you begin to find that the mineral world can conquer the vegetable. The hills get more and more barren and rocky. It is impossible to leave LESKARD without hearing the story of the Hurlers' monument. It consists of circles of stones, which the common people have a tradition were formerly men, and that they were converted into stones as a punishment for hurling on a Sunday. If the inclination of this pious fraud has effected a reformation in the morals of the inhabitants, so as to induce a more sober attention to the sabbath, though I am no friend to fraud of any description, I am, nevertheless, heartily glad that it was propagated.

The rock called WRINGHEESE is a wonderful natural curiosity. It may be described by calling it an inverted pyramid of cheeses, which contrary to the pyramids in EGYPT, goes tapering to the bottom, and what makes it more extraordinary is, that the upper stone was formerly a logan, or rocking stone, like that at the LAND'S-END, and might when it was entire, have been easily moved with a pole; but a part of it was broken off, and the counterpoise lost.

On the Sunday I arrived at ST. AUSTLE, having dined at LOSTWITHIEL, which little town on my approaching it, presented one of the most beautiful general effects I had ever seen. It had rained violently the whole morning, and about one o'clock an opening from a dark cloud let out a partial volume of light full upon the town, while every other object was involved in either rain or mist. I therefore made a drawing of the effect, which I shall hereafter introduce. From what I had read, I naturally supposed that there was no such thing as a spire in CORNWALL, except at HELSTONE, for that LOSTWITHIEL had once a beautiful steeple and spire which was destroyed by lightning in 1757, and never replaced; but this is so far from the truth that PENZANCE has a spire, which the reader will hereafter

see in a print, and as to LOSTWITHIEL, that charming effect which so struck me, would have been half destroyed if the spire had not attracted the strongest part of that light, without which it could not with me, have had any value as a picture. I was desired to look at the castle, but to me it appeared a mere Jack in the green, for I could see nothing but clumps of ivy. If I had taken a proper station I might perhaps have found it an interesting drawing, but I am not fond of rain except when I paint it, and my business was to get forward to ST. AUSTLE. I shall content myself therefore with leaving to those who have inclination to search more deeply, the consideration of whether the castle was anciently the residence of the earls and dukes of CORNWALL, or whether it was built in more modern times; whether the place is called LOSTWITHIEL, which in the Cornish language signifies a lion's tail, because the Duke of CORNWALL bore the lion for his arms, and other curious particulars, which I could not possibly learn with any correctness in the course of three hours, during which short time, except the drawing already mentioned, all food for the mind was very naturally, and I think very sensibly suspended by a more substantial treat, especially the trout, an attraction of course agreeable to the appetite of a hungry traveller.

ST. AUSTLE is a strange place of itself, but it has an elegant and spirited neighbourhood. I left it on the seventeenth for TRURO, where after passing through GRAMPOUND and by TREGONY, two very inconsiderable places, when their various privileges and immunities are considered, I came to the town of all others with which I was told I should be delighted; for that in spirit, beauty, opulence, and every other requisite that ought to characterize a considerable town, it excelled any other provincial capital in the kingdom. Nay, the hair dresser at TAVISTOCK, and hair dressers are oracles that deserve more attention than some are willing to allow, said that as to such places as BRISTOL, LIVERPOOL, EXETER, and LONDON, he had no curiosity about them, but that if he could have the happiness of seeing TRURO, he should die contented. I must say, I was not so much struck as the hair dresser and the other admirers of this place.

It must, however, be confessed that TRURO has a clean look, and, as it is a coinage town, and considerable quantities of tin and copper ores are shipped off

from thence, as the warden of the stanneries holds his parliaments there, as the quarter-sessions for the western division of the county are held there, and occasionally the assizes, it is of course at times respectably visited. In other particulars there are certainly a number of rich individuals resident there, who have made considerable fortunes as merchants in the purchase of timber, iron, hemp, leather, coals, and other articles to supply the mines, and others who have speculated in the mines themselves, so that there must be of course a large property in portions among the inhabitants. These, therefore, have it in their power certainly to create for each other a most comfortable society, which is, I suppose the case; but to strangers it seems to have all the dullness of a city, with but few of its advantages; and though a thoroughfare, as the visitors lessen of course after Exeter in the way to the Land's End, it has not much to boast from that circumstance.

Penryn and Falmouth being near seem to be so much of a temper, that they study the pleasure and convenience of each other. I heard of a manufacture of serges at Penryn, but I did not learn whether it is an object of very material consideration, and yet I recollect, or fancy so, that you described some advantages experienced from it by those volunteers who have the honour to serve under you as their lieutenant-colonel; but indeed our conversation turned principally on your favourite, my favourite, every man's favourite, Shakespear, of whom you are the strenuous advocate and warm admirer, and from whose works you have more drawings than the whole kingdom besides, which is exactly as it should be: for what can men of taste and fortune do better than encourage the arts, and to what better purpose can they be encouraged than by the celebration of great and exalted talents.

Heywood records a whimsical story of Penryn. He says, that about twelve years before the publication of his book, and he writes in the reign of James the First, a company of players happened to be representing a battle on the stage, and struck up a loud alarm of drums and trumpets at the very moment a party of Spaniards had secretly landed with a view of making an attack on the town. At this alarm from the stage heroes, those on the shore, who thought they had so

taken their measures, that it was impossible they could be betrayed, were panic struck, and instantly retired to their boasts, contenting themselves with firing a few shot by way of bravado. Thus were the inhabitants of PENRYN snatched from impending danger, by a mock tragedy, exactly as the Roman geese saved the capitol. We are told the latter with great solemnity; why should not the former be true?

I consider FALMOUTH as the most opulent town in CORNWALL. The sailing of so many packets from thence; the custom-house, which transacts most of the business for the different Cornish sea-ports, the trade in the pilchard fishery, and to LISBON and its admirable harbour, so constructed, secured from all sides from winds by bending creeks and rising hills, so spacious, so commodious, and so safe; all these must render it an object of considerable consequence, both in peace and war. I always look at a sea-port through a favourable medium. The spirit of the merchants, who adventure their fortunes, and the sailors who risk their lives, beget in my mind, and I believe in every other, sensations of the warmest admiration. It was at FALMOUTH I saw the sailor whose life was preserved by Sir EDWARD PELLEW; and though I have often publicly related the story, I did not conceive it proper in that manner to declare the author of what I had so much pleasure in being the historian. I shall now give it in the words I have been accustomed to tell it.

That gallant son of NEPTUNE was standing on the deck, the ship scarcely under way, when a favourite hand fell overboard. The captain knew him to be an expert swimmer; but finding that he was instantly struggling for life, and therefore that he must have received a blow, without losing a moment, plunged in to his assistance, when using every means that coolness, courage, and skill could suggest, he had the good fortune to seize the sinking wretch, and convey him to the boat, which by this time by the surprized and admiring crew was lowered to their assistance. The poor sailor was easily placed in the boat, but one of the crew, full of anxiety lest the captain should be in danger, aukwardly caught at his clothes with the boat-hook, by which means he received a mark of honour which he will carry to his grave.

But the most interesting part of the story remains to be told. His aimable lady, who had come on board to take leave of her husband, was on the deck when the accident happened; judge, therefore of her admiration of her hero's conduct, her apprehensions for his safety, and at length her delight in finding he had added to those gallant actions atchieved for her sake, the preservation of a fellow creature.

These were the particulars of this fact, which I learnt from more than one gentlemen at FALMOUTH, and I instantly meditated a design to publish it; but these are gratifications I must not too frequently seek; for, noble as this action was, my book would be full of similar narrations did I celebrate every particular gallantry of our nautical heroes.

Highly delighted at PENRYN and FALMOUTH, for kindness is to me of more value than lucre, I set out for PENZANCE, promising to spend a day at your hospitable mansion with my family on my return. At HELSTON, where appears to me to reside all the inferior clerks and conveyancers belonging to the stanneries, for so I was there informed, I should have found nothing worthy my notice, had I not heard in the very same assembly room where I had advertised to perform one of my entertainments on the following night, a Quaker's sermon.

This sermon was preached by a woman, and did not appear to be enthusiastic or hypocritical. The manner with which she took leave of her auditors, who were composed of all degrees, impressed me so strongly, that after I retired I took down her words. "I have observed," said she, "in the course of my "holding forth, whispers, smiles, and other indications of surprize, but nothing "of disgust, mockery, or scorn; and, however my discourse may, in your opini-"ons have savoured of singularity, I am so pleased that the subject on which I "have dwelt, has, from the high to the low, from the rich to the poor, from "those attired in the trappings of vanity, to those clothed in the garments of "convenience, commanded so decent, so becoming, and so respectful an atten-"tion, that it will be the theme of my delight, when I return to my loving hus-"band, my affectionate children, and my dear native land."

In spight of this simple eloquence, for so it appeared to me, I could not help thinking the lady a little romantic in galloping all the way from AMERICA, which she actually had done, to convert the Cornish miners; but since her loving husband and her affectionate children had no objection to it, it was nothing to me. Her zeal must have been excessive, for she travelled in a very creditable chariot, savouring perhaps a little of that worldly vanity she reprobated, to every town in the neighbourhood, and in her company were two men decent in their appearance and grave in their demeanour. Who paid the expences of this mission I will not pretend to say, but for my own part I found no place in CORNWALL cheaper than in any other county. I met this party twice, and had some conversation at JEWMARKET with some quakers, who were going to hear the same lady hold forth, one of whom told me very gravely, that he hoped he should not be disappointed. For at a village, I think GODOLPHIN, the congregation had assembled, but the spirit did not move the lady.

I listened to all this with a great deal of gravity, for indeed, I secretly rejoiced that any thing should incline vulgar minds to feel, however they might be able to define, their moral duty. Good intentions, however they may be directed, are sure to do general service to religion ; and though it is difficult to ascertain the degree of sincerity in the hearts of those itinerant missionaries, it may be safely affirmed that their collective influence over the human mind has greatly conduced to civilization. I saw in SCOTLAND, between STIRLING and DOLLAR, I am sure at least three thousand persons listening to a field preacher, who took care to be snug in his rostrum, which cased him like a centry-box, for it had rained the whole day violently, and I have no doubt, drenched as they were when they got home, they bore all the consequent colds and rheumatisms with Christian patience, convinced that their sufferings were for the soul's health.

I have this moment taken leave of my friend SHELDON, who goes for EXETER to-morrow ; you will get your next letter through him, and in the interim you will have the kindness to turn in your mind the contents of this. With the compliments of the season, which to you are always a source of satisfaction, for they

give you an opportunity of exercising your natural liberality and benevolence, and many thanks for your anxiety and solicitude.

I am, dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, Your faithful and obliged humble Servant,

Dec. 25, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XVIII.

CORNWALL.

G. C. GEORGE, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

FROM HELSTONE, which has nothing very attractive, being like plenty of other towns, represented in parliament, governed by a mayor, furnished with a market-place, and the source of never ending conjecture, as to whether the barrows, relicks, and other symptoms of antiquity are attributable to the ROMANS, the SAXONS, the DANES, the GRECIANS, or the PHENICIANS, I departed for PENZANCE on Saturday the twenty-eighth of July, where I remained only four-and-twenty hours; for, by the following evening I had returned to PENRYN, and on the Monday, one of the holidays in my almanack of pleasures, I dined at your charming house.*

The intelligence I gained relative to PENZANCE and the LAND'S-END, was much more complete than I had reason to expect in so short a time; and, having compared it with the statement of friends and some literary authorities, I found it as correct as it is interesting. The druidical remains are traceable almost every

* On the Sunday morning I took a sketch of the effect, which one point of the LAND'S-END presents from the church-yard at PENZANCE. It will come in here. It was hazy weather, which by no means has injured the general disposition of the objects.

where. To notice, however, when and why stones of certain different descriptions were placed together, in what manner they prove the nature of religious rites, how they shew the degree to which the druids were chronologists, what pile denoted a victory, what a defeat, and other restless and unsatisfactory enquiries, I shall leave to those who exercise curiosity and find disappointment.

I cannot refrain, however, from noticing what is said by those priests relative to the logan or rocking stone, on the promontory called CASTLE TRERYN, which is so evenly poised that a child may rock it, and yet the extremities of its base are at such a distance from each other, and so well secured, that it seems impossible for any human force, even assisted by the most ingenious mechanical powers, to remove it from its present situation. It has been averred that stones of this description, for there are many near the LAND'S-END, were made subservient to the holy purposes, or rather the priestcraft of the druids, who formed basons at their bases, which when they were filled with water, retarded the motion in some of the stones, and in others wholly stopt it. These arts served the purpose of trying criminals and foretelling future events, and in other various ways operated on the credulity of the people. If the priest intended that the logan should be easily removed, he used no art, but if it was his intention to make it difficult or impossible, he had only to fill the bason with water, and his purpose would be completely answered; for the center of gravity being thus removed to a considerable distance from the point where it had been before the bason was filled, it must necessarily follow that the difficulty of moving it would be encreased, and in some cases, perhaps, no force without engines could accomplish it. As for the logan upon CASTLE TRERYN, it had no bason, because being only used to try the infallibility of the druids it would have been wrong to have invented any means of checking it.

As I have taken pains in a former publication to prove that plays of some description were known in ENGLAND at the time of the ROMANS, I shall in this place notice the actual remains of a theatre exactly upon the Roman model, near ST. JUST. There are, however, several of these in CORNWALL, yet discernable, and creditable writers affirm without hesitation that they were constructed by the

Britons for the purpose of acting plays and pantomimes, which were borrowed from ROME, at the time when BOADICEA upbraided her countrymen with their effeminacy in following the follies of the fiddling NERO.

PENZANCE, which lies two hundred and eighty miles south west of LONDON, is a place of some consideration. It appeared to me to be spirited and opulent; and I was informed that many of the Cornish gentry reside there, and that there is an extensive commerce carried on by the inhabitants.

I shall now return to MARAZION, where I dined on the Sunday, having first mounted with some labour to the top of MOUNT ST. MICHAEL, of which object, from the shore I have made a portrait.* We were treated with great attention by a gentleman materially concerned in the pilchard fishery, who explained to me many particulars, with some of which I have acquainted Mr. PENNICK, in the letters which precede those addressed to you; others not yet noticed I shall here trouble you to read, not for your information, however, but that you may revise them.

ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT, as the sea ebbs and flows, is alternately either an island or joined to the main land by a beach. The erections on the top were originally a priory of Benedictine monks, founded by EDWARD the Confessor; but ROBERT Earl of CORNWALL, and MERITON, nephew to WILLIAM the NORMAN, annexed them as a cell to the monastery of ST. MICHAEL DE PENICULO MARIS, in NORMANDY, which was described to me as exactly the counterpart of this, being so built, and so situated. This building continued in religious uses, but frequently changing masters, till in the time of RICHARD the First, when HENRY DE LA POMERAY expelled the monks, and fortified the rocky sides of the mount. After that time it was occupied by force or fraud by VERE, Earl of OXFORD, Lady CATHERINE GORDON, wife of PERKIN WARBECK, and many others. It is now in the possession of Sir JOHN ST. AUBYN, to whom Mr. PENNICK is related, and from whose family

* To heighten the effect from the shore of St. MICHAEL'S MOUNT, I chose my opportunity when it lay in shadow, with the setting sun behind it. It will come in here.

at PLYMOUTH, upon this spot, and many other places, I have been favoured with much attention and politeness. Sir JOHN ST. AUBIN has greatly improved this place, and in particular has built at the foot of the mount, a capacious pier or mole, where a large number of ships may be safely laid up for the purpose of being cleaned and refitted.

As I did not arrive at PENRYN till two hours after dark, I picked up nothing in my way but a confirmation of the above intelligence, and some particulars concerning the miners, which I shall here notice, because nobody knows better than you how to set to rights that part of them which may happen to be incorrect. I have dwelt on their external conduct, which I have found, and which is generally allowed to teem with cordial and solicitous civility, but I was informed that they are litigious among themselves, owing to the numerous and minute subdivisions of property; a vice, however, which I had an opportunity of noticing at BODMIN, extends to their landlords, two of whom spent some hundreds to decide which had the most ancient claim to a croft, a pentoite, or enclosure of some such description, till after several of the oldest inhabitants of the county, most of them miners, had been examined as to the establishment of provincial usage, the Jury, by the advice of the late Baron EYRE, and the pleaders in the cause directed, with all the sagacity and solemnity of SANCHO in BARATARIA, that the field, which was worth about five and twenty pounds, should be parted between the disputants. This litigious spirit, which seems to be like master like man, has introduced among the vulgar drunkenness and fraud, which have taken the place of hurling, wrestling, the rounds, interludes, and miracle plays. Immoderate drinking is therefore become their favourite vice, which they seize upon every excuse to indulge in. The Thursday se'night before Christmas Day, in commemoration of black tin being first turned into white tin, is a famous opportunity. St PIRAN's Day is another, which saint is said to have inspired them with much information relative to working tin. Some of the superstitious customs of the Druids are also remembered, such as making bonfires on the eve of St. JOHN the Baptist's Day and ST. PETER's, and upon many other occasions, at some of which times they are furnished with money by their employers, and at others help themselves to it by some fraudulent means. This beastliness is not

confined to the miners, but extends occasionally to all the towns and villages, especially at, and for a long time after, general elections.

These subjects occupied none of our attention on the day I passed so pleasantly at your house; we devoted all our conversation to arts and artists; and as we examined that mine of graphical wealth, which your port folios contain, it became equally my admiration that this country boasts so many men of superior talents, and so much beneficence to reward them.*

From PENRYN I set out on Tuesday July the 31st, and went leisurely to St. COLOMBE. I staid four and twenty hours at TRURO, where I had again the pleasure of seeing you. I passed through St. MICHAEL'S, which place, if it ever had any consequence, is now gone to nothing. It is however, a great thoroughfare in the road from LONDON to St. JUST, and is therefore sometimes awakened out of its apathy. St. COLOMBE is something more sprightly, but very faint still. It is not, however, without its share of that litigious wrangling which I have just spoken of; for the justices hold their sessions or adjournments, or some species of court there once in every three weeks, to determine all suits where the cause of action does not exceed forty shillings. The church in this town was formerly of great note, and is still no bad rectory. What I found most remarkable was the bread, which is even superior to that so celebrated in the part of CHAMPAGNE, which is called the ARABIA FELIX of FRANCE.

I arrived at BODMIN on Saturday, August the 4th, where I remained, as you know, for I had the pleasure of seeing you there, till the following Thursday; and where, during the assizes, which began on Monday the 6th, I had plenty of opportunity to confirm me in my opinion of the Cornish litigants. I do not, however, mean to insist that the same spirit of legal controvery does not proportionably exist in other places; but all countries where there are many private jurisdictions, will naturally be more likely to give occasion for frittering private

* Opposite this page will come the view of LOSTWITHIEL, and the effect of a shower of rain. I kept it back till this opportunity, in order that it might form a better contrast to those views which have gone before it.

disputes, and splitting questions, than those where the laws are more simplified and amenable to fewer courts. CORNWALL in this respect is like LANCASTER. Both are duchies, and both have peculiar privileges as to the disposal of inferior causes of action; and I know not if the privileged court at PRESTON alone does not embrace as much vexation, which is a bold word, as one half of CORNWALL. I only mean to contend, and the question is with you equal to a chancery suit before the master, that when the Stannery laws are added in consideration to those particulars I have adduced, it were pity some digest could not be effected to induce the laborious and hardy sons of that county, who are born to dig for the conveniencies and luxuries of their fellow creatures, to enjoy more, by litigating less.

Between St. COLOMBE and BODMIN, I rather think it was not in the direct road from TRURO, I could not resist taking a sketch of the surrounding country, which, I think I shewed you at BODMIN. I shall to-morrow, dead colour a picture from it; and if it should answer as I work it up, I am of opinion that it will produce a very striking effect. I wish I could consult your judgment in its progress.*

Having received your kind and friendly wishes for the successful prosecution of my pursuits, and a promise that I should have the satisfaction of seeing you in town, which you have since faithfully, and to me most pleasantly kept, I quitted BODMIN, and arrived at LAUNCESTON on Thursday the 9th of August. This town is situated twenty-eight miles north of PLYMOUTH, and two hundred and eight west by south of LONDON. A great deal has been said of its castle, and the strength by which it formerly had the power of resisting its beseigers; great part of the ground, however, on which it stood, is now covered with houses, and the remains of the building exhibit only a memento of vain power and restless ambition. I shall therefore wave all enquiry as to whether it was originally

* The subject alluded to will come in here. It will give a correct idea of that part of CORNWALL which approaches DEVONSHIRE, and form a good contrast to the barren effect of those objects near St. MICHAEL'S MOUNT. The time was about noon, and all the parts were rather in a thin warm haze.

erected by the Romans, and delapidated by civil spoilers; as to who again restored it, and who afterwards mutilated it, and only say that it makes one striking object in that picture, which those who are fonder of provincial architecture than natural irregularity might form with considerable effect by taking their subject from one part of LAUNCESTON, and keeping NEWPORT in the back ground.

At LAUNCESTON I bad adieu to CORNWALL; I shall, therefore, now trouble you with nothing more on this subject than a few general remarks, some botanical observations, and a short enumeration of celebrated characters. This done, however, I mean to make a concise review of some particulars relative to the SCILLY ISLANDS the subject of another letter; for though my own researches did not reach so far, the subject is curious, and I shall be pardoned for endeavouring to give to my narration as much variety as possible, especially as I have taken some pains to convince myself that my intelligence is authentic, and as from your judgment and kindness I shall derive so much able and willing assistance.

The nature of the air of CORNWALL I have noticed in my first letter to Mr. PENNICK. I know not how far it would agree with a new settler, but to the natives I believe it is found to brace and fortify the constitution. The soil cannot be very fertile in general, though it must naturally teem wilh partial advantages, since from rocks generally exudes a marly kind of richness which cannot but be favourable to vegetation. The roads upon the whole, are not quite so good as in the southern part of DEVONSHIRE, but every where better than in the northern; and when it is considered that labour is more valuable in mines than on the highway, and that CORNWALL is no thoroughfare, the wonder is not that the roads are not better, but that they are so good. It is more reasonable to consult the general benefit of an industrious people, than the convenience of a few curious travellers.

Though some winters have been known to destroy vegetation in CORNWALL, when too implicit a reliance has been placed on the usual mildness of the air; yet in general even green-house plants, and particularly myrtles, may be trusted without shelter. Tube roses, jonquils, and the pearl and American aloe, have

been seen to blossom in January. As to esculent plants, they stand the winter astonishingly, and bulbous rooted flowers are so little endangered by the frost that their bloom is luxuriant beyond example. This remark also extends to most of the herbaceous perennials, I am informed that upon the stems of a single polyanthus, were found three hundred and fifty blossoms. I am taking the strongest possible instance, however, for the very term implies a plant that bears many flowers.

There are not many of the hedge and hill plants peculiar to CORNWALL, nor do I conceive that the epithet peculiar can be truly applied to the vegetation of any county; because every thing of this description depends upon soil and climate, and thus what will obstruct like a weed in one place, may be cherished as a rarity in another. The stonecrop tree, or shrubby glasswort, is found on the sea-coasts. It is not altogether the chenopodium, nor is it that kali, from some of the varieties of which is made kelp. KAY calls it *blitum fruticosum maritimum vermicularis frutricosum dictum*. This plant is cultivated in CORNWALL in the nurseries, because of the leaves, which endure all the year.

A remarkable sort of stonecrop, called *sedum majus aborescens vulgari*, is found at the LAND'S-END, and a minor sort is frequently seen on old damp walls. Wild sage, called *scordium alterum*, grows on ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT. A species of mercury is found in CORNWALL, certainly partaking of the French plant under that name; for it is not of the nature of that stonecrop called goose-foot nor of the other *mercurialis*, of which LINNEUS enumerates four, and MILLER three species. This plant is called by KAY *mercurialis annua glabra vulgaris*, and has leaves like spinach. In FRANCE it is cultivated in gardens, and eaten as commonly as any other vegetable. It is of an emollient nature, and it is usual to make cataplasms of its leaves for pains in the limbs, for tumours. and even in ulcers which it disposes to heal. The single camomile, the various virtues of which are so well known, arrives to a greater degree of strength and perfection in CORNWALL, as we are informed, than any where else. Sheeps' sorrel, which differs very little from the common sorrel, grows near ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT. The *ros solis*, or sundew is frequently found in CORNWALL. It receives its name from a speck of

water that remains on the leaf on the driest day. The farmers call it the red drop, because it is sometimes fatal to sheep; but in this they seem ignorant that the disorder is caused by an insect first engendered in the plant, and afterwards fed on it. The mischief, however, is not very great, for it seldom grows in grounds that sheep frequent; a provident care continually manifest in nature. The whortleberry, or bilberry, grows in heathy and spongy grounds in this country. It is eaten with cream, and some make wine from it.

March asparagus, which it has been said cannot grow wild in ENGLAND, is nevertheless to be found near the LIZARD. I should suppose that it is but little better than a weed; common fennel, called *fœniculum vulgari germanicum*, grows spontaneously in the extreme parts of CORNWALL, near the sea. It is supposed to be infinitely better than when cultivated. The roots rank among the aperients, and said to be equal in virtue to the famous ginseng of the Chinese.

There is a very remarkable circumstance relative to the *malva arborea maritima*, or the tree sea mallow, and the sea beet. On some small islands and rocks which are slightly covered, nothing grows during one year but the mallow, and nothing the succeeding year but the beet; and in this manner they grow alternately, and have done so from a period anterior to human recollection. This is my information. Can you ascertain for me whether it be a fact? *Hernioria glabro*, or the smooth leaved rupture wort, grows near the LIZARD; its virtues, however, in the cure of ruptures, are equalled by the parsley break stone. The French upon these occasions use cataplasms made of leeks and rocambole. A species of samphire, which is a kind of sea fennel, is gathered among the rocks, and is both pickled and used as a pot herb.

The *eringium maritimum* with all its restorative qualities, grows plentifully between PENZANCE and JEWMARKET. The narrow wild flax, a rare plant in ENGLAND, is met with on the sea side in CORNWALL; but the *juncus acutus capitulis sorghi*, or large prickly sea rush, is a plant of some importance, and found in plenty upon the sands along the north coast of this county. These rushes are of great use; for their roots are so strongly combined, that they prevent the

sands from shifting or being washed away by the sea; they are cut annually and worked into mats, mattrasses, market baskets, and church hassocks.

With a very short account of Cornish biography, I shall close this letter. DENIS GRANVILLE, dean of DURHAM in the seventeenth century, was born at KILLHAMTON, a little village about four miles to the north of STRATTON. He was a man of some eminence, and would have risen to higher preferments, had not his attachment to passive obedience and non resistance, induced him at the revolution to relinquish his livings, and go into exile. ST. ANTHONY, a small parish near the mouth of FALMOUTH, gave birth to ALEXANDER CAREW, who was beheaded for endeavouring to deliver up PLYMOUTH to King CHARLES the First. It was with difficulty he escaped with his life from the fury of the poissards of PLYMOUTH; a race of aquatic viragoes that have been generally averse to loyalty.

HUMPHRY PRIDEAUX, the learned dean of NORWICH, was a native of PADSTOW, a place about eight miles to the north of ST. COLOMBE. He was a man of strict piety, and signalized himself by his writings in defence of the protestant faith. RICHARD LOWER, an eminent physician and anatomist, was born at TREMERE, near BODMIN. He is celebrated for having joined in the Popish plot, for discovering the spring known by the name of ASTROP WELLS in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, for his treatise on the heart, and for an essay inserted in the Philosophical Transactions, to shew a safe method of transfusing the blood of one animal to another.

Sir BEVIL GREENVILLE was a native of CORNWALL. He was a man universally beloved; he was a staunch friend to CHARLES the First, and at length lost his life in that unfortunate monarch's cause. RICHARD CARPENTER, a divine and a poet, and the mirror of tergiversation, was also born in CORNWALL. He changed his religion four or five times; yet that he might be consistent in something, he finished his career as a writer by producing a comedy, in which we are told he drew his own character, under the title of the Pragmatical Jesuit. WALTER MOYLE had birth at a place called BAKE, near LOOE. He wrôte on various subjects; but the great trait in his character was, that he served in parliament uprightly, and

never gave a vote for any measure that militated against the good of his country.

As every thing after this last quality would be a sort of bathos, I shall finish my summary account with this gentleman. Whatever you have to suggest, I shall most faithfully attend to, and warmly thank you for, being

My dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, very truly yours

Jan. 1, 1801. C. DIBDIN

	nin	ington	elford	Colombe	nouth	ey	stone	Ives	nceston	keard	e	twithiel	stow	ryn	zance	lruth	ash	tton	gony	ro	ter	ndon
St. Austle to	13	29	26	12	25	8	31	38	33	20	17	8	19	23	43	23	34	42	7	14	68	241
* † Sat. Bodmin to		23	13	10	31	14	39	36	20	14	18	6	15	31	47	29	28	31	20	22	60	233
† Wed. Callington to			19	33	54	23	60	67	12	9	17	21	38	52	70	52	9	28	30	43	40	213
* † Frid. Camelford *to*				20	46	27	52	56	16	17	25	19	19	44	59	41	28	18	33	35	56	229
Th. St. Colombe to					26	20	32	36	30	24	28	14	7	24	39	21	38	38	14	15	70	243
* Th. Falmouth to						33	12	20	53	45	42	33	33	2	26	40	56	64	19	11	92	268
† Sat. Fowey to							39	26	29	14	9	8	29	31	49	31	23	45	15	22	59	232
* † Sat. Helstone to								14	59	51	48	39	39	10	12	10	54	70	25	17	99	272
* † W. & S. St. Ives to									64	58	69	46	43	18	10	15	61	77	32	24	104	277
* † Sat. Launceston to										15	23	26	35	51	67	49	21	16	40	42	40	213
† Sat. Leskeard to											8	12	29	43	52	43	14	31	27	34	49	222
* * † † Sat. Looe to												14	33	40	58	40	14	39	24	31	53	226
* † Frid. Lostwithiel to													21	31	49	31	26	26	15	22	60	233
Sat. Padstow to														31	46	28	45	37	21	22	75	248
* † W. & S. Penryn to															24	8	54	62	17	9	90	266
* Thurs. Penzance to																18	66	80	34	27	100	273
Redruth to																	46	62	17	9	89	262
* † Saltash to																		37	41	37	46	219
Tues. Stratton to																			49	53	50	223
* † Sat. Tregony to																				8	75	248
* † W. & S. Truro to																					82	255
Exeter to																						173

CORNWALL.

A table of distances, in Cornwall. Incorporated towns, governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *; boroughs thus †; and market towns have the initials of the days placed before them.

In addition to the boroughs marked above, West Looe and East Looe making two of them, there are two members for the county, and two for each of the following places; Grampound, Bossiney, St. Michael, Newport, St. Maws, and St. Germains, in all forty-four members.

LETTER XX.

SCILLY ISLANDS.

G. C. GEORGE. Esq.

DEAR SIR,

THOUGH I had not the same means of enquiry relative to the SCILLY ISLANDS, that I was enabled to avail myself of as to other places, from the opportunity of corroborating the remarks of friends or other individuals, by my own observation, yet I flatter myself the particulars contained in this letter will be found as to their essence tolerably correct. Your assistance will be valuable to me, and through Mr. PENNICK, who has long since procured me free access to the museum library, and who upon this occasion refers me to the narration of his relation Mr. BORLASE, I shall also come at valuable materials, in addition to which you will find I have some good matter of fact evidence.

I have already declared in this work that I consider the natural histories and antiquities of places as both valuable and interesting as far as they go; yet as I have pinned myself rather to an illustration of the operation of facts than a mere narration of the facts themselves, to an investigation of habits and manners than to an enquiry into the origin of laws and customs, I conceive it to be more my business, and indeed more conducive to general interest, to get at particulars full of anecdote, which illumine the mind, than mere names, origins, and significations which only obscure it.

The prominences now called the SCILLY ISLANDS, are supposed to have been formerly, and most probably were so, an immense range of rocky hills, making all together but one island; but their vallies having been broken in upon by the sea, little more than their summits at present appear, and, therefore they are considered as so many seperate islands. This description of their situation will abundantly shew the danger of navigating through the irregular and uncertain channels which lead from place to place, from the almost impossible knowledge of the bold and craggy rocks buried under the waves.

The principal islands are called ST. MARY'S, AGNES, ANNET, ST. NICHOLAS, NORTH WELKEL, TEAN, ST. MARTIN'S, BREHER, and SAMPSON. They all boast of a healthy air uninfected by those vapours which diffuse diseases throughout marshy grounds; but as the sea fogs are a dreadful annoyance, as they are open to the wind from every quarter; as the air is besides frequently filled with offensive exhalations, which are rendered still more obnoxious by burning ore weed to make kelp, as in summer the atmosphere becomes intensely hot by the reflection of the sun from the sand, and as in winter and in stormy weather the sand is blown about in clouds to the great inconvenience of all those who are obliged to venture out of doors, I should think it would be reasonable to expect better health in the fens of LINCOLNSHIRE than in the islands of SCILLY. It is insisted, nevertheless, that the inhabitants have very few diseases, and that they live to a great age. The small-pox, however, sometimes makes dreadful havock among them, and they too often fall martyrs to spirituous liquors.

The soil of these islands is too loose and sandy to bear corn in any perfection. Wheat is very rarely seen, barley and rye, nevertheless, grow plentifully, and are of a good quality; oats thrive but indifferently, they have, however, a grain by way of substitute, which they call pillar, and which is produced in large quantities. It is said to make better meal than oats, of which grain it is a species; being the same thing except the husk, and therefore called the naked oat. I have already spoken of it as a grain cultivated in CORNWALL.

They had some time ago but one corn-mill in all these islands, and in this they resemble the inhabitants in the ruder parts of SCOTLAND; for of course necessity brings ingenuity, and ingenuity resources. They have at many of the houses hand-mills, which consist of two stones about two feet in diameter, and four inches thick, and these are set wider or closer by raising or depressing the upper stone, but the process is tedious and much labour is bestowed for little advantage. They have black cattle and sheep, but as these fatten upon the sea wreck or ore weed, I should suppose the flavour cannot be very delicious. Some of the sheep however, eat snails, and are therefore held in as high estimation as the famous Sennanard philock in the west of CORNWALL. I think I should like them better if they fed upon rich grass. I cannot find that they have any goats, if they have not they are highly negligent of their interest, for the short grass on the rocks where the sheep dare not venture, would certainly feed goats to advantage, and the kids and the milk would greatly vary and increase their provisions.

They have a prodigious number of rabbits, which chase away all the hares; but this must be owing to bad management, for these different animals might be made to inhabit seperate islands. A small bird called the hedge chicken is found here constantly, and is said to be as delicious as an ortolan. Partridges have been brought over, and they encrease pretty well. Wild fowl from the snipe to the swan are killed in great plenty. Sea birds, especially puffins, are very numerous, and, in this, these rocks resemble the ISLE of MAN, and the ISLE of WIGHT; but these birds are of a fishy and disagreeable taste. To make amends, however, they have every sort of tame poulty in great perfection.

The islanders of both sexes are comely, civil to strangers, and remarkable for speaking good English. The men are generally seamen, and many of them good pilots. They have fish in great abundance, and they might make an advantage of the pilchard fishery, which begins sooner with them than it does in the bays of CORNWALL, but in this they neglect what might prove a profitable speculation, and content themselves with merely providing for their own necessities. It is very proper to give a description of their making kelp, which seems to be their staple commodity. This is done from the *alga marina* fucus, called also the sea

wreck or ore weed, which grows on all the islands in great plenty. This business is carried on in June and July, for after that time they are cautious of impoverishing the roots, and therefore they leave them undisturbed till the next year. There are several sorts of this *alga marina*, but they are equally useful, and by the same process. Each island has its proper limits assigned for gathering it. They load their boats on the shelves or ledges of the rocks when the sea has left them, and when they return they lay it on the beach to dry, after which it is turned and cocked like hay.

This done, a circular shelving pit is made in the sand seven feet in diameter, and three feet deep. This pit is lined with stones to prevent the sand from mixing with the kelp; a small bush of lighted furze is next placed at the bottom of the pit, and some of the driest ore weed laid on it. As it gains strength, it is fed with more ore weed; the fire at length becomes very strong, and when it appears in bright embers, it is mixed and stired with iron rakes till it begins to run, soon after which it turns into imperfect glass. When it becomes cold it is fit for various purposes, being used to make alum, soap, and other things; but its principal use is as an ingredient in the composition of glass. The value of five hundred pounds was received in the year 1751 for melted ore weed, and I am informed the income is now nearly doubled. There is nothing extraordinary in the quality of this fucus when reduced to ashes, for all vegetables turn into an alkalious fixed salt. Its other quality certainly is of infinite consequence, which, however, is very easily understood, for the sandy particles minute to infinity, which it imbibes through its pores, are the cause of vitrification.

Though I been little accustomed to notice the particulars of corporate regulations at different places, I shall speak concisely of the government of these islands, which is carried into effect by twelve of the principal inhabitants, who meet once a month to determine all material disputes; those of a trifling nature are never enquired into, and for a good reason: these twelve judges being very little versed in the intricacies of litigation, and their authority being too weak to enforce obedience. In criminal cases, the military are called in, and martial law enforced; but as these people have few temptations to distress others, and

great need to keep their own, which, after all, is little enough, every man makes himself as contented as he can, and finds it his interest to contribute to the comfort of his neighbours, because it gives him a right to require similar assistance.

I had an extraordinary opportunity of learning, and I have no doubt but my intelligence was authentic, that in cases of shipwreck these islanders are not the brutes we have been taught to consider them. They accomplish wonders to save the lives of distressed sailors, and restore most scrupulously the property of all those who have been preserved from destruction. As to other valuables, they constantly look upon them as their own, but their equity in the distribution of these is exemplary: those who have been most active in assisting the crews and passengers being awarded the largest share, and so on in proportion to the succour that has been afforded; but no one dares to arrogate a reward who has not been actively instrumental towards the preservation that has been given.

The person from whom I had this information, and whose history I shall presently give you, happened to be at St. Mary's Island at the time when the imprudent and unfortunate Mrs. Cargill was cast away. The accident was entirely occasioned by carelessness; for the steersman, instead of keeping the vessel at a proper distance from the land, had run her upon one of those shelves or ledges, which I have described as so dangerous, and she instantly upset: and as this was in the dead of the night, every inmate of course, except those upon deck, as in the case of the Royal George, was overwhelmed and drowned. All the bodies were found in their beds or hammocks; Mrs. Cargyl was discovered with her child in her arms, and the captain by her side. These three were buried in one grave, and the remainder of the victims were instantly deposited in the earth.

The vessel laying in the shelf the whole cargo was saved, and, as the islanders for the trouble of lending their assistance, conceived themselves entitled to the private property of the deceased as their lawful plunder, according to immemorial usage; the women partitioned among them the stage dresses, shawls, muslins, and other finery, which Mrs. Cargill had brought over with her, part of which

they sold, and they dressed themselves out with the rest. My informant shewed me some shawls and other articles he had bought for his sisters, and he assured me there was such a profusion of gay things, that the fish women and the gatherers of ore weed went to church as fine as tragedy queens.

The surviving part of the crew blamed the captain for the accident; and though they loved him, did not spare to say, that if he had not been so fond of his lady, but had watched upon deck, which in that situation was his duty, and have kept a good look out, instead of trusting to a drunken pilot, they should have been all safe. Thus was this wretched woman the syren to these mariners. A prospect of touching English ground had, on the evening before the accident, exhilerated all their spirits, and they had sacrificed too freely to their pleasures. All the favourite songs she could recollect, with which she hoped again to lead an applauding public, were voluntarily sung, and the time was contemplated when public favour should again give a zest to private folly; but the reign of thoughtless imprudence was over, and she perished a miserable example of that criminal levity, which, by degrading the mind, throws a veil over beauty, and distorts grace into deformity.

As there is a subject on which it is proper I should treat while I am speaking of the Scilly Islands, I cannot have so good an opportunity as this of exposing its arcana; I mean smuggling; and to do this I must beg your attention, though the digression will be rather long, to those circumstances by which I came at the knowledge of it.

In the summer of 1785, having set myself a task which required a large portion of time, I took my family to a village not far from Southampton, my native place; and, having invited my sister to join us, I spent four months very agreeably between business and pleasure. I had a piano forte with me, and I took every convenient opportunity to augment my stock of songs, especially as fresh nautical ideas were presenting themselves to my mind, in consequence of jaunts to the Isle of Wight and other similar relaxations. It was my custom in the dusk of the evening to play these songs, and I had frequently remarked, that a

decent looking man, who appeared like the master of a vessel, placed himself very attentively by the side of the window. Upon enquiring of the woman of the house what she knew of him, I found he was a man of considerable property in the neighbourhood, and that he had frequently imparted to her the pleasure he had felt in hearing these sea songs naturally so congenial to his own feelings. On the following evening I invited him into the house, and I found his conversation full of that pithy and pointed remark, illiterate and limited certainly, but manly and philosophic, which peculiarly characterises the minds of thorough bred seamen. I congratulated myself upon having this opportunity of mending my nautical knowledge, and did not scruple to avail myself of his offers to accommodate me with his boats or his yacht, whenever I might be inclined to take a trip to the Isle of Wight, or any other place in the neighbourhood.

We found our comforts much improved by this acquaintance. Instead of the mixture of cyder, brandy, alum, and cochineal, which compose three-fourths of the port wine drank at inns throughout this kingdom, I found myself in possession of genuine claret, Burgundy, and right Nantz. We had besides, foreign fruits, and other delicacies, all which he seemed very willing to sell for a song; but, as this would not do with me, I pressed him to know the price of these articles, saying, that otherwise I must refuse to take them. Driven into this corner, and under the necessity of coming to some explanation, he one evening staid later than usual, and after an aukward introduction, from which I gathered that he had imbibed a very high opinion of my integrity, and had convinced himself, I suppose, by the sentiments in my songs, that I was incapable of betraying any trust, however sacred that might be reposed in me, he intreated me to accompany him to his house.

The dwelling of my new acquaintance, which was situated by the side of a cliff, seemed nothing more than a superior kind of cottage, and all the rooms commonly occupied in it had no other character; but, upon exploring the different apartments, I was in a state of astonishment. Such stores of goods, such muslins, ginghams, laces, embroidery, ostrich feathers! The fact is, the gentleman was a smuggler, and in these warehouses, some of which were subterraneous,

were deposited a prodigious quantity of gay materials for dress, of such various descriptions, that nothing but a catalogue of a fashionable haberdasher could give an adequate idea of them. As the time I am speaking of was the month of May, these stores were remarkably full, and he did not scruple to shew me the different articles, which were consigned to capital houses in town to make up the court dresses for the following birth-day, so that if I had been inclined to have turned informer, I might have made pretty work among the first-rate milliners and mantua-makers. I smile even now when I pass by certain houses, to think how perfectly unconscious they are that I am in their secret. They may be easy, however, for severely as I reprobate national fraud, under such particular circumstances, I most solemnly gave my word not to betray my trust, and I have kept it inviolably.

Nor will this relation be considered as an infringement of my resolution, for the operation of the fact is gone by; and, though I do not believe that smuggling is so completely got under as is generally imagined, many of its worst effects are certainly done away; besides my quondam friend is dead, and this gives me opportunity of introducing another extraordinary circumstance, so that you see you will have digression upon digression.

As this man did not hesitate to relate to me every material circumstance of his life, it was easy to see that he had dragged on a wretched existence. He would often lament how much happier he should have passed his time, had he been brought up to some honest employ; but what could he have done? All his family, as far back as he had heard of had been smugglers, and he was forced to go with the tide. This conversation was one day renewed as we passed through the church-yard. "There," said he, pointing to a grave, "there lays my brother; he was hanged: he certainly behaved cruelly: he should not have shot the man, and yet he somehow deserved it, for he had often stood a bribe, and he ought not to have betrayed us that day." Lest I should forget it, I shall here shew what excisemen are. I saw a letter from one of them to this very man, in which were these words: "I understand you want to land some goods on Friday afternoon, therefore at that time I shall contrive to be three miles off upon government business."

"Well, but," said I, "I beg your pardon, it is a delicate subject, but people are generally dissected who are executed for murder." "What, made otamies?" "Yes, but he was gibbeted." "Oh, ho, that alters the case; and so I suppose "you and your relations for fear of the shame."---"You are cute; yes, we un-"shipped him one squally night, and so brought him and stowed him there." "And pray how did you manage to get the sexton."---"The sexton! what, in "this place! hearke'e, the parson was as willing the sexton."

He then went on to shew me how his brother had been treated by the lawyers, who had flattered him with expectations of safety, which I found was by an attempt to arrest the judgement, and as the circumstance is curious you shall have it.

The exciseman at the time he was shot, stood up to his middle in the water, and the smugglers were in a boat. The indictment was laid for murder committed on the high seas, and the counsel contended that though the water came up to the exciseman's middle, as he actually stood on the ground, he could not be said to have been murdered on the high seas. It was curious enough to hear the particulars of this argument from this man, which after a very circumlocutory view of all he had heard on the subject, he finished with saying, "and so, when about "three hundred pounds had been lawed away, poor WILL, they hanged him by "the neck."

As it is very unlikely that I shall have an opportunity to dilate on the subject of smuggling, I may as well make this compressed state of it as full of intelligence as it will admit, to shew, whatever may be the case now, that not more than fifteen years ago, a dangerous combination of extraordinary characters enriched themselves by this traffic, and bade defiance to every precaution of the legislature. I have told you that I was born at SOUTHAMPTON, the neighbourhood of which place I always understood, even from my infancy, had been composed of these lawless gentry, not that this circumstance has been peculiar to HAMPSHIRE; nay, I have heard as a notorious fact, that even the mayor and corporation of a certain town in that country were smugglers to a man.

This intelligence was confirmed to me by the person I have been speaking of; and, if his reports were true, and I see nothing to impeach their credibility, the regulations for their conduct were digested into a sound connected system, emanating from abilities such as in a more honourable cause might have been an ornament to that legislature they were employed to undermine. These precautions however, were no more than enough to ensure their safety, for their nefarious tricks were in their nature so gross and palpable, that, without a thorough right understanding, and a most invincible fidelity, it would have been impossible for them to have carried a single plan into execution.

As this intelligence was forced upon me, and any symptom of backwardness might have created a suspicion of my being capable of violating my fidelity, though it was not very pleasant to go on, it was impossible to flinch; and as my lawless friend grew every hour more and more communicative, I knew at last enough, had I been so inclined, to have passed muster among them. When we took a turn in a boat, I was taught by the arrangements, the forms, and the colours of the buoys, what tea, tobacco, or other articles were sunk in water-proof repositories, and how and in what manner they were to be taken away. I became acquainted with the clues by which goods were to be searched for in the New Forest; near Netley-Abbey, and in other places. I knew by the signals hoisted on the land-marks near the shores and harbours, whether vessels were invited or forbidden to enter. I knew the meaning of every rocket that was fired in the night. I knew in what manner their vessels were constructed, so as to bid defiance to every mode of searching them; but what was very extraordinary, no one of the fraternity had the slightest suspicion that this man had given or I received any of this information, a circumstance by the bye easily colourable, from my insatiate curiosity as to every thing nautical, for I have no doubt had such an idea been entertained, and followed up with confirmation, but it might have been fatal to us both.

My old friend stuck to me whenever he had an opportunity. He called on me in 1793, when I lived in the Strand, and in the presence of half a dozen people informed me, that his vessel was in the Thames laden with oysters; the meaning

of which was, that in the recesses of his sloop were deposited cambricks, kid gloves, black lace, and other French goods.

I'll give you one more instance of the systematic policy of this fraternity, in the execution of which my curious acquaintance acted as commander in chief, and it is a circumstance of which every person's recollection will serve to corroborate the feasibility. It will be in a moment remembered, that a manufacture called leno, something in the nature of Scotch gauze, was for a time universally worn, and all of a sudden as universally left off. It seemed as if it had vanished. It was taken to SPAIN and PORTUGAL, for veils; and though I will not say or venture to hint that any shopkeeper connived at it, the produce was laid out in contraband goods, and those goods were landed duty free in ENGLAND, and conveyed principally to LONDON. I might say much more on this subject, but, as this brings me to my point, I shall only add, that the places of general rendezvous for carrying on this traffic, were GUERNSEY, JERSEY, the ISLE OF MAN, and the SCILLY ISLANDS.

So much for my knowledge of smuggling, and how I came by it. It may not be amiss, however, to wind up the account of the principal character in this narrative and his connections. The elder brother, as I have related, was hanged; the second, in consequence of crouding too much sail to escape from a revenue cutter, was drowned; and my friend, the youngest, after the confraternity were routed, bought a commission in the army, to attach himself, I hope, to his king and country, by way of atoning for his former conduct; but, whether he felt aukward in an honourable profession, or was unable to subdue certain qualms produced by the reflection of his former rogueries, he grew melancholy, and at length put a period to his existence by a pistol; and this I learnt from a captain of dragoons on my tour.

At last you see I have brought home to the SCILLY ISLANDERS the crime of having been at some time or other notorious smugglers. What I have further to say, shall be as concise as possible. The largest and best cultivated among these islands I believe is ST. MARY'S. It is three miles long and two miles broad. It is

separated into two, called the old and the new town, and it contains from seven hundred to a thousand inhabitants. One has a fort, a cave, and a pier, and the other is guarded by a peninsula formed by nature for a fortification, and accommodated with a pool where a hundred tolerably large vessels may ride at anchor. We learn a great deal about barrows, which boast various origins, according to various authors, and of tolmens, or vast stones, near one of which was found the body of St. Cloudesly Shovel.

Agnes, situated about three miles from St. Mary's, is cultivated and very fruitful, both in corn and grass. It has an admirable light-house, which is an excellent sea-mark both by day and night. Annet is close to Agnes. It is small and rocky. Trescaw, otherwise called St. Nicholas, has the advantage of all the other islands in point of water, which article is very scarce in these places, and in particular at Agnes. In Trescaw are to be found among the rocks, as we are told, rock deities, which are as ugly and mishapen, and were held in as great veneration as the Pagods of the Indians, or the Isis and Osiris of the Egyptians.

As for the rest, North Wethel consists of no more than about ten acres of land, and the little island called Tean is uninhabited; but St. Martin's produces good corn and fine pasturage, and therefore has a few inhabitants, about eighty, which, though seperated into families, are all relations, something like the inmates of Sandwich in Kent, both in connection and origin. Perhaps from this friendly intercourse they are happier and thrive better than the other islanders, for they not only cultivate their own land to perfection, but rent land at St. Mary's, and are remarkable for being the best makers of kelp in all these islands. As for Breher and Samson they are small, rocky, and almost incapable of cultivation.

All these islands belong to Lord Godolphin. There are four churches, but they have but one clergyman, so that if he happens to be sick, church service is suspended till his recovery; but there is an island clerk established at each place, with whom they are content to put up with as their pastor's *locum tenens*. There are fosils and minerals of almost every kind that are to be found in Cornwall,

but not either in sufficient quantity or of such superior quality, as to induce any speculation as to mining. It may be material to remark, that TRESCAW, BREHER, and SAMSON form, at low water, but one island, and this is a kind of corroborative proof of what has been advanced relative to the insular situation of the whole. There are a great variety of other particulars relative to these islands, well worth the attention of curious readers, and they are no where so well or so ingeniously described as in the narrations of Mr. BORLASE.

As to plants, except the sea wreck, there is the sea poppy, which bears a pale yellow single flower, and is esteemed a valuable remedy for pains of the breast, stomach, snd intestines, and for disordered lungs. It is supposed to grow here in greater perfection than in other places, which is also asserted of the samphire. As to great men, we have heard of some who have perished at the SCILLY ISLANDS, but I recollect no mention of any who have been born there.

Thus I have finished my account of CORNWALL and the SCILLY ISLANDS, which I shall be happy to improve by your remarks. I shall hereafter take the liberty of addressing you on some general subject, and am, with many thanks for affording me so much of your time and patience,

Dear sir,

Your obliged and obedient Servant,

Leicester-Place,
Feb. 6, 1801.

C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XXI.

SERVANTS.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR AND KIND FRIEND,

Your solicitude and anxiety to please and oblige me, that you must not wonder I am often desirous of calling them into action. It is natural to court that advice which is conceived with ability, and imparted with sincerity and frankness; but, when it is of this description, and at the same time presents itself through the medium of friendship, warm and faithful like yours, the object of it must be very little alive to his pleasure or his interest, not to avail himself of it at every opportunity.

I shall treat in this letter on the subject of menial servants; and, if it be asked in what way it relates to my tour, I shall answer that one powerful part of its province is to detect abuses with a view to their correction. I may then perhaps be told that the evil I complain of is incorrigible. Let me then do what good I can by explaining some of its baleful effects. Something ought to be attempted for I am afraid it is but too true, that those to whom the peace, the comfort, the safety, the fortunes, nay, even the lives of opulent individuals are confided, and whose peculiar duty, and indeed, interest, is fidelity, not only have it in their power to disseminate family dissention, to the destruction of domestic happiness, but they systematically make it a practice.

My remarks here as well as every where else have a general tendency. That there are trusty and most valuable servants, I do not incline to doubt; and, when such are found, it is the peculiar duty of those masters who have the happiness to possess these inestimable jewels, for so they are, to rate and pay their full worth. I honour SWIFT for raising a monument to a faithful servant, and the manliness with which he retorted the raillery of his friends. It was of a piece with his conduct, when, for neglect of duty, he made his butler strip and go out of the house, under the idea that as he had the secret of the Drapier's Letters in his power, it was his intention to take advantage of that circumstance, to keep his master's mind in subjection. It was as far as it goes, like the conduct of ALEXANDER. One drank what might have been poison rather than suspect his physician: the other bid defiance to every danger rather than be in the power of a servant; the same courage impelled both.

If we examine into the situations of servants as to themselves, we shall find a complete polity, long laid down, and constantly, though secretly regulated and acted upon, and that through this private compact they carry on all their measures. To break out has never been their interest; because, though tremendous as to numbers, they tremble like the slaves in the BONDMEN, at the whip. The insurrection when vails were abolished, and they abandoned their masters and mistresess at RANELAGH, who were in consequence obliged to walk home, produced disgrace instead of procuring redress. They blustered, trembled, and slunk back to their kitchens.

Cunning, left handed warped cunning, is the principle of this internal government. A true thorough-bred servant has in his composition a small portion of the fox, a large one of the ass, and a much larger of the mule. You will have had occasion through life to remark, with much more than my penetration, that the exercise of mere cunning has very little to do with strong intellectual endowments. The nefarious among the members of the law are those whose ideas are narrow and sordid; men who can cavil but cannot decide; who inflict misery to procure litigation, and who fancy the essence of the most honorable practice that can dignify human nature, is to shake off every merciful feeling. The enlightened

are always liberal. What are gamblers, compared to whom highwaymen possess honour, but men of the grossest ignorance and most brutal propensities? and these remarks apply to servants, whose ignorance induces them to imagine they are unfairly shut out from society, and therefore, through the medium of that little craft they possess, they pilfer what they dare not steal, and practice insidiously those depredations which they are too cowardly to commit openly.

If they had common sense, upon what footing would they consider themselves? They are dependant it is true, but they inherit nothing either from nature or fortune that can give them title to a better fate, and are a people distinct in their essence from all others, being incapable of receiving mental intelligence, unfit for every ingenious pursuit, destitute of talents, and devoted to sluggishness. Indolence is the mother of servitude. With humble expectations, therefore, they ought to have humble minds, especially, as by submitting with chearfulness to that state for which alone they are calculated, they are exempt from all care, all inconvenience, all worldly troubles. With these considerate reflections they might conciliate the favour of their employers, and by deserving a laudable confidence, receive an honourable reward. What pity that all reasoning of this complexion is doomed to be fallacious; for none but refined minds can cherish such reflections, and nothing can be expected from sterility but weeds.

This is however not their opinion of themselves. Let us see what are their reflections. We are only servants; service is no inheritance; we may be here to-day and gone to-morrow; let us make hay while the sun shines; never peach; there are more places than parish churches, and, if we lose one place let us stand up in every servant's cause, and there can be no fear of getting another. Thus, full of jealousy and suspicion, they come into every new situation, envious of those they ought to obey, prepared to provide for all adverse consequences, determined to make their markets as soon as possible; and, however their private interests may clash, to adhere to the general rule of standing by one another at all adventures and in all emergencies; and, it is a remarkable confirmation of this fact, that however they may quarrel privately or individually, even to mortal hatred, the combination is never violated, for though circum-

stances may induce them to discover venial faults, they never betray irremissable ones.

This is the basis of their compact, and it shews that, take what conduct you may, it will be dangerous to entrust them with your confidence, and vain to expect attachment from them. The old Spanish proverb says, shew me too servants, and I'll shew you two spies. But this is not the worst. How do they act upon these rules which they have laid down for their conduct? A new servant is as regularly initiated, and as secretly instructed as a free-mason; and one is as systematically sworn to do mischief as the other to do good. The history and circumstances of the family are first developed, and a consultation is had, as to whether the fortune is likely to last out their time, or whether, and at what time, they shall turn rats and leave the sinking ship. The virtues and perfections of those who compose the family are never dreamt of, indeed they are neither felt nor understood, but the vices and failings are magnified with a malignant pleasure, because, by working upon those, they are to make their fortunes.

Close as this compact is, it is strengthened and confirmed by their faithful allies the register offices; places that more than once have become very properly the objects of public reprobation. Without entering into the connivance at intrigues between elders and young girls, a subject which has been already with great propriety exposed on the stage, but which would lead me into an unavailing train of reflections on human depravity, I shall only say, that to these places servants out of employ resort like politicians to a coffee-house. There they talk over the affairs of the families they have left, relate the cause of seperation, and compare with one another in what manner they have been too indiscreet, too bold, too scrupulous, or too squeamish, and consider how to regulate their future conduct for the good of the community. There shall they find resoursces against all emergencies; there they pick and chuse advertisements, convenient references, second-hand recommendations, and ready-made characters, which have their different prices affixed to them, and thus they purchase honesty, sobriety, cleanliness, and good temper, as easily as it was formerly the custom to buy indulgencies of the Pope.

The next thing is to get at the tradesmen, and in this, though there are exceptions, and I hope many, it is impossible to disguise that they are too often successful. When I speak of trade, on which the very existence of this country depends, I mention it with reverence and respect. It has been publicly noticed from high authority, as a circumstance greatly to the honour of ENGLAND, that we are a nation of shopkeepers; and, as there is no bread so sweet as that which is earned by honest industry, it is impossible not to feel it as a grateful and proud compliment. I am afraid, that to the lower orders of tradesmen, whose ideas are, like the articles they vend, of a confined and retail nature, the broad and liberal construction of this handsome remark has no reference. It is true, that from low beginnings they get on in the world, go through the whole routine of parish offices, and at length portion their daughters, and purchase the *fermes orné* of ruined spendthrifts.

How has this been done? I answer through their protection of servants, to whom they grant the market penny, with whom they take their glasses, smoke their pipes, and have their junketings, and for whom they seldom stick at procuring characters; else, how comes it that bakers make dead men, that hares and partridges are sold as openly as ducks and chickens, and that gentlemen to procure prime fruit are obliged to purchase their own pines and peaches in COVENT-GARDEN MARKET.

Early in life, when I mixed a good deal with the world, I knew a very opulent tradesmen who possessed at least eighty thousand pounds, who kept the first company, and who gave dinners in the most elegant style. I have seen at his table persons of distinction, and have met him and his family at their tables. I once went with him to pay a visit in the country to a baronet remarkable for hospitality, and where I was taught to expect a great deal of pleasure. We arrived in the evening, and as we were ushered into a room I could not help noticing that the servants came round us, and accosted us both with uncommon familiarity, at which I must confess, I rather expressed some astonishment. To relieve me, however, from my embarrassment, he told me that it would be more snug to sup in the housekeeper's room than appear before the family in our boots.

To this I acquiesced; but, when I came to see a great deal of cordiality between him and the butler, who proclaimed his approach by the emancipation of a long cork, and at the same time swore that he always kept the best bottle for his private friend; and when, soon after this I was asked to sing, and treated with less ceremony than I had really ever been accustomed to from persons of this description, I had first thoughts of expostulating in pretty round terms with my friend, but on reflection, unwilling to interfere with his private motives, whatever they might be, I pretended to have a violent tooth ach, and got to bed as soon as possible.

Early in the morning I mounted my horse and rode to town, certainly leaving my friend in the lurch, but he deserved it, for I found there was more meant by the excursion than I should at any rate have bargained for. It turned out that there was to be open house kept on the day I left the place, for the celebration of some anniversary always observed by the family, and that I was invited to be comical and entertain the company, while my friend was to look on at humble distance. I had the honour of meeting this very baronet afterwards at the house of one of his friends in town. He laughed heartily at the circumstance, applauded my spirit, and invited me to his house, where I frequently dined with him afterwards, and partook of coursing and other country pleasures.

It is proper to tell you that my friend the tradesman took an opportunity to call on me. He made an apology for having lugged me into such a scrape, hoped it would make no difference in our intimacy; said that in the way of business trifles must be passed by, that servants were great friends to tradesmen, and that where money was to be got people must not be nice. I answered, I had nothing to do as to his private conduct, and only regretted that he had not permitted me to make an election as to my own. So far it was all very well; but the joke was not finished. I called on him one day on particular business about an hour after dinner time; and, being ushered into the parlour without ceremony, I saw, with an elegant desert and French wines before them, the baronet's butler and housekeeper, sitting in the very room, and at the very table where two months before I had dined with a countess.

This fact, which it literally is from beginning to end, proves a great deal, and I will follow it up with another that proves a great deal more. About three years after this circumstance happened, this very butler was turned away for conniving with the butcher, in the manner of drawing out his bills, to defraud the baronet of eight hundred pounds. Mem. My friend was not the butcher.

Thus combined, and thus supported, servants neither feel any inducement, nor consider themselves under any obligation to attend to the interest of their employers; nay, the very contrary is enjoined and enforced. They are a distinct people, a seperate estate, and their motives of action are like something deletereous in the social constitution, corroding that with which it cannot mix. Yet, strong as I have put the case, and I could put it ten times stronger, not half the blame is imputable to servants. We are ourselves the cause of our own inconvenience, I had almost said dishonour; and, by trusting and consulting them beyond their province, we are the dupes of our own credulity, and become their very tools. The eye of the master fattens the horse. Why don't men look into their own affairs? Why are they not masters of their own property? Why have servants their own wine, their partridges mews, their cottages, their doxies, and why do their employers stalk about on their own possessions, contented with a bare title, and ignorant of the value of their own fortunes.

I went last summer to see the castle of a noble duke, which is always, in the absence of the family, left open for the inspection of strangers. The conductress was pretty free and flippant in her manner, and I own I was rather surprised at the bold air with which she spoke of her patrons, by whose courtesy their absence was to her a tolerable sinecure. I asked when the duke was expected. She answered in a manner that indicated something like anger, that she had not been consulted; "Nobody knew; he would take them, she supposed, by sur-"prize: such airs! why could not he let them know when to expect them?" I said that upon recollection I had heard that he had the gout. "What then," said she, "he has not the gout in his hand; he can write, I suppose." Fearing I should incur this lady's displeasure, and get into disgrace, like the duke, I dropt the conversation.

How can servants arrive at this pitch of insolence but by having over-leaped that barrier, set up by reason and necessity as their boundary, and which never could be passed but by the consent of their superiors. I have shewn how impossible it is correctly to keep them within their own limits, but they would receive an insurmountable check to a certain degree, were it not for the permission, at least, if not the connivance of their employers. Without this encouragement they would be content with accustomed pillage, common pilfering; they would not have the temerity to pry into private concerns, they would not dare to advance towards trenching on reputation, which would then be hallowed ground, and it would be profane in them to approach it.

Instead of this how stands the real fact? They are the panders of pleasure, and the conductors of intrigue, and it is from this and only this that men servants game, drink, and wench, and maid servants dress in the first style and fashion. Do we not every day see servants driving their masters and mistresses side by side in their curricles? Is it not tonish for the master to dress as like the servant as possible? and is there in consequence any species of impudent familiarity that servants do not arrogate? But to enumerate the instances of humiliation to which persons of fortune expose themselves by plunging into the thoughtless and profligate practices of fashion, would be as unavailing as they are lamentable. I shall therefore pursue no further the painful task, but finish this letter with a case in point, which will place this picture in its true light, and prove that FIELDING'S ladder of dependance, in which he numbers the gradations of gentility from the foot-boy to the minister of state, and exemplifies that upon the principle he lays down, it must be immaterial in the mind of a philosopher, whether it is more eligible to be a gentleman at seven o'clock in the morning, or three in the afternoon, is not only a fact, but a most degrading one to human nature.

At a celebrated watering place, I had occasion to have my hair dressed after dinner; and, as the weather was remarkably warm, I chose to sit near a window at the head of a large stair-case. It was at one of those inns where the company dine together as at BUXTON and HARROWGATE. They were then in high glee at that amusement, and but for that circumstance, I should not have known from their

dress that about eight or ten females at that time sitting on the stairs were servants. Though my station was out of their sight, it was impossible not to hear their conversation, which was as flippant, as fashionable, as elegant, and as insipid as if it had been maintained by their superiors. As different members joined this community, there was consequently a frequent change of voices, and this sort of alteration it seemed to undergo two or three times. At length, when I descended, I missed the original company, and found a new one in their stead, some of whom had been pointed out to me in the morning as persons of fashion.

The fact was, that during the interval I was stationary on the stair-case, the time for the ladies to withdraw had arrived, and an inclination to shun the sultry weather had induced them to replace their servants in that airy situation, and this had occasioned the change of sounds, but as to any difference in the style, manner, or matter of their conversation, I had not discerned the least, nor upon recapitulating the circumstance in my mind to ascertain the fact, did I discover any single trait in the chit chat of the ladies, of a superior nature to that of their Abigails.

Wholly to correct this abuse, if my statement be true, appears to be out of all expectation. It would, however go a great way towards a reform of servants, if we had the good sense, the pride, the courage to reform ourselves. To effect this, suppose we were to set ourselves a few wholesome rules; and, upon the principle of all rational subordination, without which communities cannot exist, let the first resolution, since it is improper, impolitic, disgraceful, nay, dishonourable that they should rise to us, let us not so debase ourselves as to sink to them.

Yours most sincerely

Leicester-Place, and faithfully,

Jan. 30, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XXII.

DEVONSHIRE.

THE REV. DR. CRUWYS.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

HAVING finally taken my leave of CORNWALL, and for the present of my friend Colonel GEORGE, I shall beg you to accompany me in my ramblings from LAUNCESTON to the time when, after a separation of sixteen years I had the pleasure of taking you by the hand at CRUWYS MORCHARD HOUSE; which sort of adventitious enjoyments are called by some author the white moments in our lives. That moment was certainly to me one of the most perfect I ever knew and your warm and solicitous kindness sufficiently proved that our sentiments were reciprocal. Having said this, if I am reminded that I am not writing a private letter, I shall answer that the public will rather commend, than blame me; rather feel interested than offended; that in describing my own pleasure I am stimulated with a hope of contributing to theirs.

I left LAUNCESTON on Friday the tenth of August with a view to reach TORRINGTON that night, but the roads were so wretchedly bad that I could get no further than HOLDSWORTHY, a poor insignificant place of which I could learn nothing remarkable; not even the tidings of a Roman station, a barrow or a ruinated castle. I was told however that on the road from HOLDSWORTHY to TORRINGTON, which I had as you shall hear the misery to explore the next day, that I might regale myself at an Hotel; but, when I arrived there, some musty hay and a few oats for the horses

were all they could muster, for as to ourselves it was impossible to enter the house. A suite of apartments it consisted of certainly, but they were occupied by the cows, the pigs, and the poultry. Vainly did the sign, which I mistook for a finger-post, display the alluring title. As if by a stroke of enchantment, the slated roof was converted into furze thatch, the lofty vestibule to a dirty passage, the stuccoed ceiling into worm-eaten rafters, the sparkling Champaign into sour cyder, the convivial guests into drunken boors, and the spruce attendants into squallid children. In short, the most filthy mud cottage upon DERBYSHIRE PEAK, is a palace in comparison with the hotel between HOLDSWORTHY and TORRINGTON.

I soon found out, however, that the accommodation without was not a whit better than within. The road became worse and worse. The hungry and faithless sands having no quality of adhesion, the large hard and flat stones yielded to the slightest pressure, and no dependance was to be placed on a single inch of the ground. All this uncomfortableness induced us to quit the carriage, and clamber those declivities, from whence the laughing hills and vallies presented a most romantic and luxuriant effect. It was a mischievous kind of laugh, to say the truth, for it seemed to be at people's misfortunes. Scarcely had we walked a hundred yards, when all of a sudden we heard a violent crash, which was as suddenly followed by several violent exclamations. It was evident to us all what had happened, and like reasonable people, we congratulated ourselves that whatever might be the mischief, our bones were safe.

When we came to the disastrous spot to examine into the extent of our misfortunes, I very easily perceived that the accident would be no material impediment to us. The carriage had overturned exactly opposite a blacksmith's shop, upon a very high and soft bed of ashes; and, so kind a welcome did it receive from this friendly mass, that, though the glass was up on that side which fell undermost, not the least damage was sustained; nay, it made a mould of it in profile, even to the lamp, and with the help of the blacksmiths and the countrymen, it was lifted very easily on its wheels. The pole was the only thing that had suffered any injury, which was violently splintered, for being tough ash, it would not admit of breaking, but finding some iron hoops in the blacksmith's shop,

and instructing him to temper them, that they might be bound round it spirally like a ribband, we were soon set to rights.

There are two or three circumstances that it would be wrong to omit in this place. If I began facetiously, I should relate the first by saying that I always went armed, for I certainly never failed to carry a pocket pistol with me. The fact is, that as I seldom drink any thing else than water, for travelling very soon cured me of beer, a kindness that I shall always acknowledge with gratitude, particular as beer is now usually brewed, I was very fond, by way of a luxury, of stopping at a purling rill to get some of my favourite beverage in perfection. I will not deny, however, that I had any aversion to qualify it occasionally with a little brandy, especially as it was seldom that the wine was drinkable, and for this purpose I carried with me a small wickered bottle. When the carriage overturned, this bottle flew out of the only window which happened to be open; and when I arrived at the spot, one of the countrymen was in the act of finishing the liquor, which having done, he cried out, like another Calaban "Cham, sure these be gentlefolk, for carron sitch cruel good stuff to drink."

I ought not to forget that during the time it took to get the pole iron bound, which made up about twenty minutes, we were courteously entreated to sit down in a very lowly cottage, but the neatest I ever saw. It was inhabited by an old woman of decent demeanour and her daughter. In the mother there was nothing uncommon, except unaffected civility might be called so in such a place; but the manners of the daughter were replete with good breeding almost to elegance. Sterne would have made a good thing of this accident; and really, with the addition of a lamb or a favourite spaniel, one might contrive to embellish a real or fancied account of this extraordinary pair, who certainly had nothing in their manners congenial with the half licked beings among whom fortune had thrown them, with some pretty round writing. For our parts, we were anxious to get to Torrington, and contented ourselves with wondering at what it was not very easy to account for.

While we had remained at the blacksmith's shop, a farmer who was going to Torrington, offered to take any message, or execute any commission for me.

I availed myself of his kindness, and having been told that we should have a dreadful hill to encounter at the entrance of the town, I wrote a note to a servant I had dispatched, as a sort of an *avant courier*, to bring horses from the inn by way of getting a lift up the hill. With this provident precaution we set out, bidding defiance to all disasters, and arrived at the place of appointment in perfect safety. John, who had determined to make assurance double sure, was not only punctual to the moment, but had provided help enough, and indeed more than he wanted, though upon enquiry, not more than he had bargained for. Finding he could not be supplied with post horses, he enquired for others, and desired the hostler to do the same. John succeeded, but forgetting that it was possible the hostler might succeed too, he posted away to the bottom of the hill, and was presently followed by the farmer he had applied to, and three cart-horses; for, as he had not specified the number he should want, as many was brought as could be spared. While John was making his bargain for these horses, the other farmer to whom the hostler had applied, arrived with two more. Very soon after this we came up with them, and finding what had happened, I desired they might all be satisfied in proportion to the trouble that had been given, and, having had a most tiresome time of it, we agreed to walk up the hill, and leave John to fight the matter out with the farmers.

Scarcely were we housed at the inn, when we saw a mob approaching, and presently the carriage was drawn up to the door by seven horses, two of them my own. It turned out that John, finding the farmers would not bate an ace of their agreement, had determined they should not get their money for nothing, and therefore employed all the horses, and thus during, first the wrangling, and afterwards adjusting the mode of harnessing this motley team, we had arrived in time to be spectators instead of actors in this curious scene.

Of Torrington, though it is rich and populous, there is not much to say. It seems a spirited place, and the inhabitants, who carry on a considerable trade to Ireland, and other places westward, are possessed of the spirit of enterprize, and therefore live in sociability and good fellowship as far as I could learn. This neighbourhood is remarkable for snipes and woodcocks. One person, on whose

veracity I can depend, assured me that he sent birds of that description to LONDON, to the tune, in some winters, of from seventeen to nineteen hundred pounds in a season.

On the following day, Sunday the twelfth, I set out for BIDEFORD, and was kindly informed that I should find the road as bad as that from HOLDSWORTHY to TORRINGTON. This indeed I had an opportunity of witnessing as I stood to see the volunteers exercise on the bowling-green at the extremity of the town, which place overlooks the tremendous road in question with a most pleasing south prospect, over a large tract of well cultivated land and a view of the river Tor, to an extensive distance. In winter indeed it must have been impassable, for it is very narrow, and the prodigious number of trucks which are employed for the conveyance of timber, cut the wheel ruts to such a depth that it cannot but be very dangerous, except in dry weather.

BIDEFORD is a clean well built and populous town. The quay is very spacious, and an extensive trade is carried on there principally to VIRGINIA, the WEST INDIES, and NEWFOUNDLAND. It has a large church; and though it is not my custom to notice monuments, I cannot refrain from speaking of one by which, and some collateral communication, I learned the very extraordinary character of the person it announces. This gentleman's name was STRANGE, and the circumstances of his life were of a piece with his name. His frequent preservation from destruction was of such a nature as almost to exceed belief. Among other remarkable instances he fell from a very high cliff when he was young, without receiving the least injury. He was afterwards hit by an arrow in the forehead, which glanced off without any farther effect than raising the skin; but what induces the inhabitants of BIDEFORD to believe that his birth was a miracle operated in their favour, was this:

In 1646 the plague broke out in BIDEFORD; and, influenced by the general terror, the mayor of the town among others, fled with all his property. Mr. STRANGE solicited to fill the vacant situation; and, during the whole time the pestilence raged, he went into the infected houses to see that the sick were properly

attended, and that the dead bodies were so dealt with as that the infection might spread but as little as possible. This vigilance was crowned with success; for by these and other precautions, this terrible visitation continued, considering its violence, but a very short time; but the wonderful part of the story is, that after the disease had been, as to the rest of the inhabitants completely got under, at the very moment his safety was considered as miraculous, he himself sickened with it, and died a martyr to his own philanthrophy, and at a time of life too, I think under fifty, when he might have expected to number a long succession of years.

A description of the country about Bideford would apply to a very large part of the north of Devonshire. It is hilly and rocky, and has capabilities for every species of vegetation, which are variously turned to account according to the spirit and abilities of the landholders and their tenants. Thus diversified, it is impossible but the scenery must be striking and full of novelty. In the bay lies the island of Lundy, a place remarkable for nothing but having harboured two sorts of vermin; the crews of petty French privateers, which, from the inaccessibility of the situation, did, in the reign of Queen Anne, incredible injury to our trade; and rats. One part of it was formerly called Rat Island. The bridge at Bideford is said to have been built through the interference of a miracle. The story as I have heard it runs thus:

Several attempts having been made to accomplish the building of a bridge, and every effort considered as impracticable, owing to the impossibility of finding a firm foundation, the expectation of compassing so desirable a benefit seemed to be at an end. At length, however, one Richard Gornard, a parish priest, was told in a dream to lay the foundation of a bridge on that part of the strand where he should see a rock repose itself after it had rolled from the high lands. In his next morning's walk he saw a rock descend in the manner his dream had described, aud he of course watched it till it was at rest. The remainder is obvious. He certainly had no means of his own; but, having imparted the supernatural soliciting to Sir Theodore Greenville and the bishop of the diocese, a subscription was set on foot; the bridge, which I saw, and which is a very hand-

some one, was built as soon as possible, and the money in hand was found sufficient to keep it in repair for ever.*

Bideford is not by any means an object of my admiration as a place of residence. The politer inhabitants almost every where in the north of Devonshire consist of persons who possess scanty fortunes, and who, like those resident on the Isle of Man, are in consequence now and then driven to straits; but I think this observation applies more to Bideford than to any place I ever saw. Place, precedence, etiquette, and all such nonsence, when carried to excess, even among those of high titles and large fortunes, particularly in the country, preclude all possibility of comfort; but in a place like Bideford, where there is not the smallest pretension, generally speaking, to arrogate a distinction of this description; false airs and assumed consequence, instead of inducing admiration beget ridicule even to pity. I know of no alliance so truly deplorable as poverty and pride. I have somewhere read an anecdote of two boys, who, as they were, blacking shoes could not keep their eyes off a coxcomb dressed

* I had never learnt that there was any more of the wonderful to be known relative to this bridge; but Dr. Cruwys, in his answer to this letter, speaks of a circumstance, which at the same time that it is very wonderful is also very true. The reader shall have it in his own words.

" You forgot, or else were not informed of a very singular circumstance relative to Bideford-Bridge. " The tide flows so rapidly, that the bridge cannot be repaired by mortar. The bridge corporation, therefore, " keep boats in employ to bring muscles to it, and the interstices of the bridge are filled by hand with those mus-" cles, by which it is supported from being driven away by the tide, entirely by the strong threads these muscles " fix to the stone work; and, by an act or grant, as thus reported, it is a crime for transportation to any person who " shall remove those muscles, unless in the presence, and by the consent of the corporative trustees." This intelligence, with which my friend has furnished me, brings to my recollection a circumstance to which I was witness at Calais, and which struck me as an extraordinary instance of this adhesive quality in muscles. It was my custom very frequently to walk on the pier in the spring of 1777; and, at that time, all the piles and timbers of every description were covered with myriads of very diminutive black spots. These apparently encreased in size almost every day; and, by degrees, eclipsed the appearance of the wood, till I at length determined to ascertain what they were. I found them to be muscles; and, watching them constantly, they spread to a prodigious extent, keeping their hold in the manner Dr. Cruwys has described so tenaciously, that even severe gales, in one of which, a vessel was ashore, did not in the least disturb them. This continued till the latter end of August, when the whole of the mouth of the harbour, and all the passages to the outer fortification were perfectly a mass of muscles

in the extreme of the fashion. One of them indulged himself in a volley of scurrility at the beaux expence. "Hold your tongue you dog," said the other, "don't abuse the poor man; we are all as God Almighty pleaseth to "make us."

Barnstaple, which place I next visited, is inhabited in the style of Bideford, but by people of higher condition. Strangers resort a good deal to Barnstaple, and thus from a frugal, industrious, trading town, it is now become a seat of luxury and pleasure. It is all, however, in a secondary way, which will yield more and more, first to inconvenience, and afterwards to necessity, in proportion as scarcity intrudes, and the value of necessaries are enhanced. Nothing could have induced this influx of strangers, but the beauty of the country and the wonderful plenty with which it abounds; but, witness the story of the snipes and woodcocks, markets are found where the produce of all countries may be sold at exorbitant prices; and thus, exclusive of fish, the articles brought to market at Barnstaple get more and more out of the reach of all but a few of the richest description of its inhabitants.

Fish indeed gets dear, but not in proportion to other things; but then it is not of the same proportionate value, for the coast being open to the north, it is coarse and gross, and in particular the salmon; and it is on this account it finds no other market; for on the south side of Devonshire, where fish are brought in such abundance and in such perfection, the price is become more than double what it was ten years ago, and more perhaps than triple what it was only five years before that. Bristol is upon the whole the best market for fish I know, both as to the quality of the fish and the encouragement of its sale; for as to the latter circumstance, a constant bounty stimulates the exertions of the fishermen, and as to the fish itself, though nothing can be more gross than those caught northward, towards the coast of Ireland, yet nothing can be finer than those taken where Bristol Channel narrows into the Severn.

As I get into greater length than I intended, and shall have much more to say before my arrival at CRUWY'S MORCHARD, I shall take another opportunity, though not a distant one, of resuming this subject, by which time probably, I may be furnished with your observations, which will serve as materials to work into my narrative.

Adieu,

Your's sincerely and faithfully,

Leicester-Place,

Jan. 30, 1801.

C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XXIII.

DEVONSHIRE.

THE REV. DR. CRUWYS.

MY DEAR AND KIND FRIEND,

I RECEIVED yesterday by the post your solicitous and friendly letter, and by the coach a large packet of materials relative to DEVONSHIRE, together with one of the most intelligent and best digested systems of chronological events relative to this kingdom I ever read. It will regulate me as to particulars of that description throughout my work, and serve me as a clue to escape from that labyrinth of contradictory statements and opinions which surround me, and in which it is impossible sometimes not to be lost and bewildered. At present I shall go on with my narration in my own way, not without strict attention, however, to your accounts of the hundreds of TIVERTON and WITHERIDGE.

In my last letter we travelled together from LAUNCESTON through HOLDSWORTHY to BARNSTAPLE. I shall now continue my journey from thence to CRUWYS MORCHARD, first taking a peep at ILFRACOMB, which place I also visited. Of this singularly romantic spot, however, I can say from myself but very little, having staid there only about four hours. I am told that if I had passed through the town and seen the disposition of the rocks on the further side of the bay, I should have been very much gratified; but this was not in my power, I therefore con-

tented myself with taking a view of the approach to ILFRACOMB from BARNSTAPLE, at the distance of about a mile and a half. I think it remarkably picturesque; and, as it takes in as much of the church and a few buildings as can be distinguished between the trees in the valley, which is shadowed by the bold rocks behind, and extends on the right to the port, and opens to the Welsh coast, I hope it will be found that the trouble was not thrown away. It is a sun-set, and will come opposite this page.

ILFRACOMB is situated on the BRISTOL channel, forty-nine miles north north-west of EXETER. This port is of infinite use on that side of the coast, for it has a road and harbour which afford a secure shelter for vessels, particularly from IRELAND, when it would be extremely dangerous to attempt BARNSTAPLE BAY. It is also remarkable for most excellent lights to direct ships at sea. Owing to these advantages it is become rather populous, and indeed rich; and as it is frequented as a bathing place, both business and pleasure are carried on with a considerable degree of spirit.

If BARNSTAPLE were easily accessible, it could not fail to prosper in an equal, if not in a superior degree to any town in DEVONSHIRE, after EXETER and PLYMOUTH; for the situation is beautiful, the capabilities of the town for improvement are remarkably advantageous, and the country around teems with all the necessaries of life; but the roads are so dreadful, that the difficulty of getting there is scarcely repaid by a view of so charming a country, and thus the inhabitants seem as if they were in voluntary exile. In winter they must be actually shut out from society. How can the opulent among the inhabitants of that side of DEVONSHIRE, so absurdly neglect their pleasure and their interest as not to conquer so trifling an obstruction? a little spirit and a little industry would contribute to their satisfaction and convenience, and save horse-flesh: as it is nothing can be more pitiable than to see the wretched animals stretching their sinews and clambering like cats. The best horses in the world would be ruined by such roads; and, whenever any but those accustomed to the country are brought there, the hostlers by way of wit look at their knees, to see whether they are marked as they call it with the DEVONSHIRE arms.

On Saturday, the twelfth, I left BARNSTAPLE for SOUTH-MOLTON, to which place you had sent a servant with instructions, as to my journey on the following day to CRUWYS MORCHARD, I found this the most endurable road, for it was by no means a good one, since I had left CORNWALL. SOUTH-MOLTON is eleven miles south-east of BARNSTAPLE, thirteen west of DULVERTON in SOMERSETSHIRE, and two hundred and eighty-two west by south of LONDON. This town wore more the air of substantial industry than any I had seen for some time before. They have lime-kilns from which the husbandmen fetch great quantities of lime to manure the ground, and a considerable abundance of wool is brought to market, and bought up by the traders, for the purpose of carrying on manufactures of serges and shalloons.

When I had written on to this period, your packet of materials arrived, and yesterday I received your last letter, in which you speak of TORRINGTON, BIDEFORD, SOUTH-MOLTON, and BRISTOL, I shall therefore regulate my reports in many places by your observations, which will appear on the publication of this work, by way of notes to this and the preceding letter. My readers will readily join me in acknowledging their value, and I now beg you to accept my warmest thanks for them. I lament, on account of their correctness and accuracy, that my plan will not permit me to adopt more than will generally apply to the subject, I shall however, for my own interest, consult your documents wherever I can.

Your chronological arrangement in particular will be of constant and material service to me; and, though I should think it unhandsome and unfriendly to mutilate it, for indeed it would make a valuable publication of itself, I accept your friendly permission, and shall avail myself essentially of the very interesting and original facts it contains.

As it would be a mere reiteration of your own remarks to say more of them here, I shall go on with my story exactly in the same order as if I had not received them, not, however, without keeping an eye both on them and on those I have received from our friend SHELDON, who as you will easily believe, has not been idle. To say the truth never had man so many calls on his feeling and his gratitude as myself, for the union of so much kindness and so many good wishes will add a novelty to this work, which no other ever possessed.

On Sunday the eighteenth I left SOUTH-MOLTON for CRUWYS MORCHARD, the seat of your ancestors, and your present habitation. An account of your domain, and the satisfaction I received there will come in a note in this place.* On the Monday evening I arrived at TIVERTON; and, on the following Wednesday I left DEVONSHIRE. TIVERTON is fourteen miles from EXETER, six from CULLUMPTON, fourteen from WELLINGTON, in SOMERSETSHIRE, eighteen from SOUTH-MOLTON, and one hundred and sixty from LONDON. TIVERTON, like BLANDFORD, owes its present handsome appearance to its having repeatedly arisen a renovated phœnix from its own ashes. It was three times destroyed by fire; the first time in 1598, the second in 1612, and the third in 1731. I give you my own acquired intelligence, on which I will thank you for your remarks. My information says it was in consequence of these fires that JAMES the Second granted this town the privilege of having a corporation, governed by a mayor instead of a portreve, and of sending members to parliament; but your opinion that these advantages arose from the importance and opulence attached to the place, after it had overcome its difficulties, is more like truth and more in nature. It is not so usual to see men assisted in distress as when they can help themselves.

I copy you when I tell the reader that, among the remarkable events concerning TIVERTON, the Princess CATHARINE, daughter of HENRY the Fourth, married WILLIAM COURTNAY, Earl of DEVONSHIRE, and lived and was buried there; that ESSEX retired there from the anger of Queen ELIZABETH; and, that when MONK was recorder of the town, CHARLES the Second had private protection and assistance there. The manufactures are serges, druggets, duroys, sagatees, diapers,

* CRUWYS MORCHARD, of which estate and manor my old and respectable friend is now possessor and lord, descended to him from his ancestors, who held it as far back as King JOHN, when it was called MORCHARD-CASTLE. It is situated in a most beautiful part of DEVONSHIRE, at the distance of thirteen miles from EXETER. I have already described that he is his own rector, and it will be easily believed that I must be lost to sensibility if, after a very long absence from each other, I could be unmoved at our meeting, any more than at a sermon recommending brotherly love, in language adapted to the feelings and understandings of his congregation, which I heard him preach in his own church; but a recapitulation of our feelings, however pleasureable they were to us, would be here out of place. I shall therefore drop this subject with wishing him happiness equal to his good inclinations towards me, which have ever been constant and uniform, and on which I cannot reflect without the highest satisfaction. It is only to be lamented that such a man is not more in the world.

and other articles, and the sale is supposed at present to amount to fifty thousand pounds a year.

The name TIVERTON is a contraction of TWYFORD TOWN, alluding to two streams by which the town is watered. The following strange epitaph on the above Earl of DEVONSHIRE and his wife should not be omitted. It is to be seen in the parish-church, which parish extends thirty-five square miles.

" Ho, ho, who lies here?
" 'Tis I, the good Earl of DEVONSHIRE,
" With KATE my wife, to me full dear,
" We lived together fifty-five year;
" That we spent, we had;
" That we left, we lost;
" That we gave, we have."

I shall now instance some general particulars relative to DEVONSHIRE and conclude.

Perhaps no tract of equal extent is so diversified. One might very easy reconcile to propriety a belief, that it has been formerly an object simply grand, like the borders of SWITZERLAND, and the Highlands of SCOTLAND, and consisting of a majestic range of mountains and glens, that various convulsions of nature had split and divided, and so multiplied them into hills and dales; which in proportion as it deducted from their grandeur, added to their beauty; particularly by the number of rivers that naturally insinuated themselves into every cavity, occasioned by large substances having been broken into fragments.

I am supported by our friend SHELDON in a belief, that earthquakes and volcanoes have at some early period convulsed DEVONSHIRE, which carries in almost every part marks of volcanic matter. Hence also the ores produced from the different mines, which were worked prior to those in CORNWALL. I have before me an ingenious conjecture of our friend, that tin mines were worked in DEVONSHIRE at the time of the Druids. The conjecture is taken up from the derivation

of DREWSTEIGNTOWN, a place upon DARTMOOR, druro being the ancient word for druid, and thus it is easy made into Druids-tin-town.

I think it very probable, that if mining were more attended to in DEVONSHIRE it might be very productive; but those who find so much advantage in cultivating the face of the earth, have seldom much curiosity as to what lies underneath it, otherwise tin, lead, and loadstones have been often found in sufficient quantities to encourage an enterprizing speculator; and, in the years 1293, 1294, and 1295, were extracted, I know not whether from a mine or from different mines, no less than fifteen hundred weight of silver, and I am confidently told that the fact may be relied on. DEVONSHIRE abounds in all the necessaries of life, particularly fish, fowl, and cyder; the latter in long sea voyages and in hot climates, is considered as very wholesome, and preferable in every respect to beer.

The air in DEVONSHIRE has the same properties as in other hilly countries, influenced, nevertheless, in great measure by the nature of the soil. In the vallies it is mild and salubrious, and on the hills sharp and searching; but in spring, after rains, it is in many places unwholesome, owing to the steam which rises from the strong earth almost as powerfully as from a hot bed. The southern part of DEVONSHIRE is considered as the most fruitful; but certainly for romantic, luxuriant, and picturesque beauty, the northern boasts a decided pre-eminence. It is, however, upon the whole, a most delightful county; and when the roads, which are the worst I ever saw, including those on the borders of SWITZERLAND, and which, from my recent information are now in a more deplorable state than ever, begin to indicate that agricultural improvement, of which the land is so capable, and which nothing but indolence and want of spirit can prevent, it might be fairly pronounced the most desirable residence for pleasure and profit in ENGLAND.

There are very few vegetable productions in DEVONSHIRE that are not common to other places. Our friend SHELDON mentions the *digitalis purpurea*. It is that purple fox-glove which grows wild. The leaves have been very strongly recommended in epileptic disorders. BOERHAVE judges it to be of a poisonous nature,

which Dr. ALSTON contradicts. They may, nevertheless, be both of them in the right, for, according to circumstances, it must appear to the satisfaction of every man of critical observation, that it may have both these propensities; and thus the adage, that what is one man's food may be another man's poison, will be found to have literal as well as figurative existence. I am rather, however, inclined to adopt BOERHAVE'S opinion, as its general use at present is only in the form of an oinment, which is called *unguentum digitale.* It is to be found abundantly in shady lanes.

Eringo, *Erynguim vulgare* is found on the rocks. The root of this plant was once a kind of fashionable medicine, being considered as a good *hepatic, uterine,* and *nephritic;* but these qualities were never universally admitted; and, instead of the virtues of a medicine, it now only pretends to the insipidity of a sweat-meat. The small sea rush grass, and the sea rush with globular heads, are found in places near the sea. The turkey's feather, called by some a *lichen,* and by others a *fungus;* as, however, both these tribes are most extensively various, and, as I neither know the plant, nor can find any peculiar qualities attributed to it, I shall pass it by. It is to be found on the rocks near EXMOUTH. Balm-leaved archangel, which is a species of the *lamium* or dead nettle, grows in the woods; it is used sometimes by nurses for cataplasms, and an ointment is made from the flowers.

I can find no more rare plants in DEVONSHIRE, except the *rubia anglica,* or *rubia silvestness,* as this species of the wild madder is particularly called, of which you have given me the excellent description to be seen in the note underneath.* Your accounts are every where corroborated; but I cannot refrain from men-

* Rubia anglica or wild madder, is found in many places near BIDEFORD, and without cultivation. This madder is of great use in dying linens and cottons. It is mixed with alum. Dr. LEWIS, in his new dispensatory, says, that the root of madder taken internally tinges the juices, and in the philosophical transactions, we have an account of its producing the same effect on the bones of animals, when mixed with their food. All the bones, particularly the more solid ones, were changed both internally and externally, to a deep red, but neither the fleshy nor the cartilaginous parts suffered any alteration. Some of these bones macerated in water for many weeks together, and afterwards steeped and boiled in spirits of wine, lost none of their colour, nor communicated any tinge to the liquor.

tioning a short addition to them. Du Hamel, having for some time mixed madder with the food of a pig, and afterwards kept away the madder for an equal time, found upon sawing the bones through, that their interior laminæ were red and the exterior white; and having fed another pig upon madder six weeks, kept it upon common food six weeks more, and again changed its food to madder for six weeks after that; the bones were composed of three layers, the internal and external being red, and the middle one white, so that my joke of making streaky bacon, by giving the pig as much as he can eat one day, and nothing the next, is not so extravagant an idea as people may imagine.

Devonshire is remarkable for having produced a large number of celebrated and extraordinary characters, of whose worth and talents I lament that it will be impossible for me to give more than a few concise particulars. Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the famous Bodleian Library at Oxford, was born at Exeter. He was both a brilliant public and private character, as every body knows; and, therefore, all I could say of him would be no more than a reiteration of that praise so eminently due, and so willingly paid to his memory. Courtney, that Earl of Devonshire, of whom I have already spoken, who, at the age of thirty, with no other assistance than that of a few gentlemen and their tenants, routed and drove a large body of French to their ships from before Plymouth, in the reign of Henry the Third, was born as well as buried in your country.

Sir Francis Drake, whose victories over the Spaniards with always disproportionate numbers were wonderful, and whose memory stands therefore in need of no man's eulogium, was born at Tavistock; Sir John and Sir Richard Hawkins, the best names that could follow the name of Drake, were both natives of Plymouth. The famous Cavendish was born in Devonshire. Sir Walter Raleigh, remarkable for his discovery of Virginia, for the singularity of his first introduction to court, for suppressing the Munster rebellion, for the great assistance he gave towards defeating the Spanish Armada; who was a constant friend to his country, who was condemned nevertheless for treason, pardoned, again employed, and afterwards executed upon a revival of his former sentence, drew his first breath at Hayes, near Budley in Devonshire, and his last upon Tower-Hill.

DAVIS, famous for his discoveries in the north-west of AMERICA, whence DAVIS'S Streights. Sir JOHN FORTESCUE, celebrated for his learning and wisdom and the great offices he bore under ELIZABETH. JOSEPHUS ISCANUS, the poet, who took his name from ISCA, the ancient appellation for EXETER, whose poem of the Trojan war was twice printed in GERMANY, under the title of Cornelius Nepos. The noble and unfortunate HENRY HOLLAND Duke of EXETER, a strange instance of the vissitudes of human greatness; who, though brother-in-law to a King of ENGLAND, was seen begging about without shoes or stockings in the Netherlands, by PHILIP DE COMINES the historian: all these were born in DEVONSHIRE.

Lord Chief Justice HANKFORD, who had the courage to commit the Prince of WALES, afterwards HENRY the Fifth, to prison, for insulting him in the execution of his office, was a native of DEVONSHIRE. It is generally believed, that though SHAKESPEAR, out of love to practical justice, gives this character in the play a conspicuous situation in HENRY'S favour when he comes to be king, that the fact was otherwise, and that HANKFORD, fearful of the consequences of his commendable conduct, as soon as he heard of the king's accession, ordered his park-keeper to shoot any man found in the park at night who should refuse to tell his name, an order to which he himself purposely became the victim.

The celebrated MONK, the restorer of CHARLES the Second, was born at POTHERIDGE. The family of GREENVILLE have been eminent both in DEVONSHIRE and CORNWALL. There is an account that Sir RICHARD GREENVILLE, in the reign of ELIZABETH, engaged fifty Spanish galleons with one single ship. He was boarded thirty times, and yielded at last upon most honourable terms, but not till all his powder was expended, and till the Spaniards had lost four of their largest ships and a thousand men. Sir THOMAS LYTTLETON, a great law luminary, was a native of DEVONSHIRE. So was the celebrated Bishop JEWEL, HENRY DE BATHE, and HENRY DE BRAETON, both of whom were lawyers of celebrity; and COWELL, a learned civilian, were all natives of DEVONSHIRE.

PETRE, whose great abilities are recorded, who took an active part in the destruction of the monasteries in the reign of HENRY the Eighth, and enjoyed

the favour of four successive monarchs, was born either at EXETER or TOR-NEWTON. Lord Chancellor KING, the intimate of LOCKE, was a native of EXETER; so was the celebrated HOOKER. GAY, whose genius every body admires, and whose memory every body loves, was born at BARNSTAPLE. GLANVILLE, an eminent divine, was a native of PLYMOUTH. TINDALL, a good author upon public subjects, drew his first breath at BEER-FERRES; and poor BUDGEL, who, with all his friends, was never either happy or comfortable, who assisted the reputations of others, without being able to establish a reputation for himself, who lost twenty thousand pounds in the south sea scheme, and five more electioneering, and who at last in despair filled his pockets with stones, and jumped into the Thames immediately under LONDON-BRIDGE, came into a world, in which he studiously sought every thing but comfort, at ST. THOMAS'S near EXETER.

I shall finish my account of departed DEVONSHIRE worthies by saying, that the great Duke of MARLBOROUGH, whose name implies his history, was born at ASHE. To mention those who are living is not within my province, otherwise I should begin by saying that you were born at CRUWYS MONHARD, where, that you may live many years in health and happiness, is the sincere wish of

Leicester-Place, Your faithful and obliged friend

March 16, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

	Axminster	Barnstaple	Bideford	Chudleigh	Chumleigh	Crediton	Cullumpton	Dartmouth	Exeter	Hatherleigh	Holdsworthy	Honiton	Ilfracomb.	Kingsbridge	Modbury	Moreton Hamp.	Newton Abbot	Oakhampton.	Plymouth	South Molton	Tavistock	Tiverton	Torrington	Totness	London
† Sat. Ashburton to	44	50	47	10	34	21	32	18	10	29	42	35	60	20	14	12	8	22	24	42	20	32	40	8	192
Sat. Axminster to		57	64	34	45	33	20	57	25	58	67	9	66	60	61	37	40	47	68	44	57	25	59	48	155
* † Fri. Barnstaple to			8	47	16	30	36	68	39	22	27	46	10	70	64	39	51	29	57	12	45	31	11	58	193
* Bideford to				44	16	30	41	65	42	17	19	52	18	67	59	36	48	24	52	18	40	30	6	55	201
Sat. Chudleigh to					30	17	20	22	9	27	40	25	57	26	25	8	6	20	34	37	30	22	38	14	182
Frid. Chumleigh to						14	25	52	22	15	26	35	26	54	49	23	35	18	46	8	34	20	14	42	190
Sat. Crediton to							17	40	8	20	34	24	40	41	36	12	23	18	45	22	30	12	28	30	176
Sat. Cullumpton to								42	12	34	48	11	46	47	48	24	27	34	55	24	44	5	39	36	164
* † Frid. Dartmouth to									30	47	60	48	78	12	16	29	16	40	30	60	35	43	58	10	203
* † W. F. & Sat. Exeter to										29	42	16	48	34	35	12	15	22	44	28	32	14	36	23	173
Frid. Hatherleigh to											13	45	32	50	42	19	31	7	35	23	23	32	11	37	200
Sat. Holdsworthy to												58	37	52	44	32	44	20	38	31	24	46	15	54	215
† Sat. Honiton to													56	51	52	28	31	38	59	34	48	15	49	39	157
Sat. Ilfracomb to														70	74	49	61	39	67	22	55	41	21	68	186
Sat. Kingsbridge to															8	13	20	48	22	62	28	48	61	12	217
Th. Modbury to																26	21	35	14	57	20	49	33	13	208
Sat. Moreton Hampstead to																	12	12	29	34	21	24	28	19	185
Wed. Newton Abbot to																		24	31	45	30	28	40	8	189
* † Sat. Oakhampton to																			28	26	16	30	18	30	191
* † M. Th. & Sat. Plymouth to																				54	14	52	46	23	217
* Sat. South-Molton to																					42	19	16	50	182
† Frid, Tavistock to																						42	34	30	206
* † Tues. & Sat. Tiverton to																							34	46	166
* Sat. Torrington to																								48	196
* †Tues. & Sat. Totness to																									195

DEVONSHIRE.

A table of distances in DEVONSHIRE. Corporation Towns, that is to say, those governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are thus distinguished *; boroughs thus †; and market towns have the initials of the days placed before them.

The members for the county and for the boroughs of BEARALSTON and PLYMPTON are not here included, making the whole number twenty-six.

LETTER XXIV.

DOGS.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Having shewn in my last general letter, that however fidelity may be in our natures, it is very little in our practice; I shall here go into some argument and some fact, to prove that this very strong assertion may without difficulty be supported, even to the utmost stretch of its very wide and extensive signification, and that to the shame of our nature, while we contemn this honest, this amiable, this convenient duty, its unqualified exercise makes up the essence of inferior animals.

That we are perpetually running counter to that reason, by which quality we are distinguishable from brutes, is confirmed by every hour's observation. Perversity seems to be engendered with us. We do a thousand things ridiculous, absurd, and inconvenient, without either reason or motive, a reproach that cannot justly be applied to any other species of being; but the marking feature in our character is that unfeeling, ignorant obstinacy, which delights in rule, and revolts at subordination, and by which we are never happy but when we lord it over some object, of ability inferior to our own. We are told that it is noble to be convinced into contrition, and yet there are few who feel the force of well merited reproach; for, instead of the dignified struggle which induces an acknowledgement of error, we revenge ourselves ou some object less capable of resistance.

Men who suffer chastisement from gentlemen, have generally courage enough to beat waiters. Nay, this propensity is universal, and extends even to females. Miss who has been scolded by her mamma, instead of an apology in extenuation of her offence, takes the first opportunity of revenging herself on her little sister, who has scarcely dried her tears, before she begins to whip her doll.

That other creatures have none of these ridiculous, unnecessary, extravagant propensities, it is impossible to deny. Our general idea is that they are endowed with an impulsive faculty, called instinct, which embraces no more than a knowledge of their natural wants; but no man can seriously contend for the literal truth of this assertion. In this letter which relates to the understandings, feelings, and affections of dogs, I think I shall clearly refute it.

Dogs, if I may be permitted the expression, have noble passions, and possess a rectitude which, if it be instinct, proves that instinct is superior to reason. Their gratitude is unbounded, their devotion exemplary, their study and delight are to please and serve their master; they watch his commands, they wait upon his smiles, they obey, oblige, and protect him, and are ready to die in his defence: nay, they love him so wholly and entirely, that their very existence depends upon his attention to them. I had a dog myself, that I was necessitated to leave behind when I began my tour, and he pined away and died in a few days after he had lost me. I have always loved dogs, and the observations I have made are innumerable, and all to their advantage; among the rest I am competent to declare that they make friendships, always, however, with caution, among one another. Upon these occasions, they premise their compact, they observe it inviolably, and this understood, the strongest protect the rest. I had a yard dog that had every thing of a wolf but the ferocity. He was as gentle as a lamb, nothing offered to himself could insult him; but no roused lion could be more terrible if any of the family, or the other dogs were insulted.

I shall now shew you, by the relation of some pointed facts, the discrimination, the reason, the good-sense, for I cannot say less, of dogs. The first is a circumstance which happened under my own observation last summer, and I introduce

it here to give it force. You know I would not affront you by asserting a falsity, and I hope the public are equally inclined to credit what I most solemnly declare to be fact. This is the least I could say as the preface to my story.

I took with me last summer one of those spotted dogs, which are generally called Danish, but the breed is Dalmatian. It was impossible for any thing to be more sportive, yet more inoffensive than this dog. Throughout the mountainous parts of CUMBERLAND and SCOTLAND, his delight was to chase the sheep, which he would follow with great alertness even to the summits of the most rugged steeps; and, when he had frightened them and made them scamper to his satisfaction, for he never attempted to injure them, he constantly came back wagging his tail and appearing very happy at those caresses which we, perhaps, absurdly bestowed upon him.

About seven miles on this side KINROSS, in the way from STIRLING, he had been amusing himself with playing these pranks, the sheep flying from him in all directions, when a black lamb turned upon him, and looked him full in the face. He seemed astonished for an instant; but, before he could rally his resolution, the lamb began to paw him and play with him. It is impossible to describe the effect this had on him; his tail was between his legs, he appeared in the utmost dread, and slunk away confused and distressed. Presently his new acquaintance invited him by all manner of gambols, to be friends with him. What a moment for PYTHAGORUS or LAVATER! By and by, gradually overcoming his fears, he accepted this brotherly challenge, and they raced away together, and rolled over one another like two kittens. Presently appeared another object of distress. The shepherd's boy came to reclaim his lamb; but it paid no attention except to the dog, and they were presently at a considerable distance. We slackened our pace for the convenience of the boy; but nothing would do: we could no more call off the dog than he could catch the lamb. They continued sporting in this manner for more than a mile and a half. At length, having taken a circuit, they were in our rear; and, after we had crossed a small bridge, the boy with his pole kept the lamb at bay, and at length catched him; and, having tied his plaid round him, it was impossible for him to escape. Out of fear of the boy, and

in obedience to us the dog followed reluctantly; but the situation of the lamb all this time cannot be pictured; he made every possible attempt to pass the boy, and even endeavoured to mount the parapet, as if determined to jump into the river rather than not follow the dog. This continued till the prospect closed, and we had lost sight of our new ally, whose unexpected offer of amity to SPOT seemed ever after to operate as a friendly admonition, for from that day he was cured of following sheep.

This friendship at first sight between a dog and a lamb, I shall follow up with a circumstance to prove the friendship of dogs towards each other. The particulars of this story I believe you have already heard. I do not vouch for its authenticity, though I have very little doubt of it, and that little, as the story has been always told me as an undoubted fact, and always in the same way, would vanish, were it not that the scene of action has been differently placed by every one of the narrators. For the honour of dogs, however, as I wish the story to be true, I will shew that this is not a material objection.

There is a celebrated anecdote, the truth of which will be insisted upon by every seaman. It is no more than that an admiral's ship at anchor caught fire; and, as the conflagration spread itself so rapidly that it was impossible to get it under, the boats were presently crouded. One of the sailors, who saw he stood no chance of being saved, but by a stratagem, ran into the cabin, snatched up a coat and hat belonging to the admiral and jumped overboard, crying out as he swam near the boat, "Will nobody save the admiral?" He was taken in of course and forgiven for the wit of the offence. Now my remark is this: I have been told this story by a lieutenant, a purser, and a captain of marines. The first insisted that it happened at ST. KITS, the second at SPITHEAD, and the third in the CHESAPEAK; nevertheless the vouchers for the real fact are many, they all tell it the same way, and therefore it is impossible to disbelieve it. I therefore, with the less hesitation am induced to give you the other story, at least the circumstances of it, as I have invariably heard it related.

A traveller belonging to a considerable house in the city, was very fond of a small French spaniel belonging to the lady of the house, which had been accustomed to follow him, and therefore occasionally confided to his care. He began a journey, and did not perceive till he was nearly twenty miles from home, that the little dog had accompanied him. He found himself in a very unpleasant dilemma; but, after some consideration, he made up his mind as to what conduct would be most expedient to adopt. It was impossible to send the dog from the place where he had discovered him; but he recollected that about thirty miles further on he might entrust him with great confidence to the care of a landlord, who he was sure would get him safely conveyed in the waggon to town. This he resolved to do, having previously written home to that effect, to avoid uneasiness.

When he arrived at the inn he committed the dog to the care of the landlord as he had intended, and pursued his journey. His route being circuitous, he had occasion, in the course of a few days, to return to this very inn. The first thing he did of course, was to enquire after the little dog, and was told by the landlord with great concern that he was lost, and that the particulars of the accident were these: He had by some means got into the stables, and had been severely treated by the yard dog, from which moment he had disappeared and eluded every search that had been made after him. The traveller, extremely concerned at this intelligence, made every possible enquiry for the dog without effect, and went to bed.

The next morning he heard a noise as if dogs were fighting in the yard; and, his mind being alive to the circumstance of having lost the little spaniel, his curiosity was naturally excited, and he ran to the scene of action, where he saw two large dogs fighting, and a little one looking on. The fact turned out that the little dog, after having been beaten, had gone home, made the house-dog acquainted with the circumstance, and brought him to revenge his cause. This is very strong it must be confessed; but I declare that my mind does not revolt at it. I know it to be possible, supposing the distance to be only two miles; why should it not then be true supposing it to be fifty? The condition of the little dog manifested sufficiently to his friend and protector the treatment he had received: and, for the rest, we know that dogs will in a most astonishing manner,

retrace their steps. My sister had a dog stolen from her by a strolling tinker, which found its way home from some very considerable distance, for the skin was completely off its feet, and it fell down at the door, unable to proceed an inch further.

We have here seen the operation of reason upon dogs, and that they are capable of friendship, I shall now go into some instances of their fidelity, a quality which every body knows they possess in an astonishing degree, though few, perhaps, have given themselves the trouble of ascertaining in what an extraordinary manner upon this subject they challange our admiration.

A gentleman in the city had a dog so attached to him that he knew no pleasure in the absence of his master. This dog of course he loved and valued, for I have the pleasure of knowing him, and I believe no man can have more humanity or sensibility. This gentleman married. In a short time the dog seemed to feel a diminution of attention towards him and testified great uneasiness; but, finding his mistress grew fond of him, his pleasure seemed to redouble, and he was perfectly happy. Something more than a year after this they had a child. There was now a decided inquietude about the dog, and it was impossible to avoid noticing that he felt himself miserable. The attention paid to the child encreased his wretchedness, he loathed his food, and nothing could content him, though he was treated on this very account with the utmost tenderness. At last he hid himself in the coal cellar, whence every kind and solicitous means were taken to induce him to return; but all in vain. He was deaf to all entreaty, rejected all kindness, refused to eat, and continued firm to his resolution till exhausted nature yielded to death.

I shall give you but one more instance of the affecting kind. The grandfather of as amiable a man as ever existed, and one of my kindest and most valuable friends, had a dog of the above endearing description. This gentleman had an occupation which obliged him to go a journey periodically, I believe every month. His stay was short, and his departure and return were regular and without variation. The dog always grew uneasy when first he lost his master, and

moped in a corner, but recovered himself gradually as the time of his return approached; which he knew to an hour, nay, to a minute, as I shall prove. When he was convinced that his master was on the road at no great distance from home, he flew all over the house, and if the street-door happened to be shut, he would suffer no servant to have any rest till it was opened. The moment he obtained his freedom away he went, and to a certainty met his benefactor about two miles from town. He played and frolicked about him till he had obtained one of his gloves, with which he ran or rather flew home, entered the house, laid it down in the middle of the room, and danced round it. When he had sufficiently amused himself in this manner, out of the house he flew, returned to meet his master, and ran before him, or gambolled by his side till he arrived with him at home.

I know not how frequently this was repeated, but it lasted however till the old gentleman grew infirm and incapable of continuing his journies. The dog by this time was also old, and became at length blind; but this misfortune did not hinder him from fondling his master, whom he knew from every other person, and for whom his affection and solicitude rather increased than diminished. The old gentleman after a short illness died. The dog knew the circumstance, watched the corpse, blind as he was, and did his utmost to prevent the undertaker from screwing up the body in the coffin, and most outrageously opposed its being taken out of the house. Being past hope, he grew disconsolate, lost his flesh, and was evidently verging towards his end. One day he heard a gentleman come into the house, and rose to meet him. His master being old and infirm had worn ribbed worsted stockings for warmth; this gentleman happened to have stockings on of the same kind. The dog from this information thought it was his master, and began to demonstrate the most extravagant pleasure; but upon further examination, finding his mistake, he retired into a corner, where in a short time afterwards he expired.

I shall mention a few circumstances relative to the sagacity of dogs and other animals, and take my leave of this subject. At a convent in France, twenty

paupers were served with a dinner at a given hour every day. A dog belonging to the convent did not fail to be present at this regale, because of the odds and ends which were now and then thrown down to him. The guests, however, were poor and hungry, and of course not very wasteful, so that their pensioner did little more than scent the feast of which he would fain have partaken. The portions were served one by one at the ringing of a bell, and delivered out by means of what in religious houses is called a *tour*, which is a machine like the section of a cask, that turning round upon a pivot exhibits whatever is placed on the concave side, without discovering the person who moves it.

One day this dog, who had only received a few scraps, waited till the paupers were all gone, took the rope in his mouth and rang the bell. His stratagem succeeded. He repeated it the next day with the same good fortune. At length the cook, finding that twenty one portions were given out instead of twenty, was determined to discover the trick, in doing which he had no great difficulty; for lying *perdû*, and noticing the paupers as they came in great regularity for their different portions, and that there was no intruder except the dog, he began to suspect the real truth, which he was confirmed in when he saw him wait with great deliberation till the visitors were all gone, and then pull the bell. The matter was related to the community, and to reward him for his ingenuity, he was permitted to ring the bell every day for his dinner, when a mess of broken victuals was purposely served out to him.

Though I can ill afford time for much digression in this work, I shall nevertheless strain a point to relate a remarkable circumstance, received in France for truth, and which will be found at length in the *Essais Historiques sur Paris*. In the reign of Charles the Fifth, a gentleman of the name of Aubri, accompanied by a dog, was assassinated in a wood and buried at the foot of a tree. The dog it was supposed remained on the spot till he was nearly famished, for in that condition he came to Paris, to the house of his master's particular friend, and howled most piteously. He had scarcely satisfied the cravings of his appetite, when his agitation grew more violent. He ran to the door, appeared by his actions as if he wanted somebody to follow him, pulled his master's friend by the coat, and

grew more and more impatient. The singularity of these actions in the dog, his returning without his master, the inquietude which had been caused by the absence of the master himself, who, by appointment ought long before that time to have been at PARIS; these and other circumstances, determined the friend, in company with others, to follow the dog, who conducted him to the foot of a tree, and then redoubled his howlings and his solicitude. He scratched up the earth, and manifested so many signs, that, together with the appearance of the fresh mould, and a number of collateral circumstances, convinced them they ought to search for the body of the unfortunate AUBRI, which they now began to believe was buried there, and which in fact they found.

The Chevalier MACAIRE, as a person inimical to the interests of AUBRI, and in particular on account of his high favour with the king, they all suspected to have a hand in the murder. The friend took an opportunity of shewing MACAIRE unexpectedly to the dog. He instantly grew outrageous and endeavoured to fly at him; but the friend, who had taken his precautions, for that time prevented him. Determined, however, to revenge AUBRI, he made all he suspected known to the king, who commended him for what he had done, and appointed him at a given time to appear at the palace accompanied by the dog. They were introduced among the courtiers, who caressed the dog, and to whom he shewed every respect and attention; but the moment MACAIRE came into the room, who had been purposely kept back, he flew at his throat. The matter was, in consequence, more particularly enquired into; till, from a train of circumstances, and at length his own confession, he was found guilty of the murder, and suffered death.

There is a tract of English history which if true, and it is well authenticated, proves that the first landing of Danes in this country was occasioned by the sagacity and affection of a dog, LOTHBROKE, of the blood-royal of DENMARK, and father to HUMBAR and HUBBA, being in a boat with his hawks and his dog, was driven by an unexpected storm on the coast of NORFOLK, where, being discovered and suspected as a spy, he was brought to EDMUND, at that time king of the east Angles.

Having made himself known, he was treated with great hospitality by the king, and in particular cherished on account of his dexterity and activity in hawking and hunting. BERICK, the king's falconer, grew jealous of this attention, and, lest it should lessen his merit in his royal master's opinion, and so deprive him of his place, had the treachery to way-lay LOTHBROKE, and murder him; which done he threw his body into a bush. He was presently missed at court, and the king grew impatient as to what was become of him, when the dog, who had staid in the wood by the corpse of his master till famine forced him thence came and fawned on the king, and enticed him to follow him. The body was found, and by a train of evidence BERICK was proved to be the murderer. As a just punishment he was placed alone in LOTHBROKE's boat, and committed to the mercy of the sea, which bore him to the very shore the prince had quitted. The boat was known, and BERICK, to avoid the torture, falsely confessed that LOTHBROKE had been murdered by the order of EDMUND, which account so exasperated the Danes, that to revenge his death, they invaded ENGLAND.

To enumerate all that is known and reported of dogs, would be to write a volume; but, as every thing is astonishing of them, though delightful, interesting, and admirable, from their tricks related by PEZELIUS; the dog's pretending to die and come to life again, told us by PLUTARCH; and the variety of other extraordinary circumstances recorded by very many different authors, to that most complete climax, the Dog of ULYSSES, which many have considered as the best trait in all the Odyssey, I shall no further advocate their cause than to wish that all those who hold in contempt their want of reason, were endowed with so perfect a quality as their instinct.

As to the sagacity of other animals, monkies, which all the negroes swear are negroes only they won't work. Elephants, of which so many extraordinary things are related, and many other similar objects of delight, which will in a moment suggest themselves to you and my readers, I cannot find time, whatever may be my inclination to enumerate them. Their natures and dispositions

will for ever live in every man's memory, in his admiration of ÆSOP, who seems to have partitioned the different qualities of mankind among them; and who, having given ferocity to the tyger, and subtilty to the serpent, has endowed the elephant with wisdom, and the dog with fidelity.

Your's,

With the truest esteem and friendship,

Leicester-Place,

March. 15, 1801.

C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XXV.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

MY journey through DEVONSHIRE being now well over, thanks in great measure to you and Dr. CRUWYS, who have treated me in the same friendly style I experienced from you when I was really there, I shall beg the favour of you to go on and accompany me through part of SOMERSETSHIRE, and so on to LEICESTER-PLACE.

As I have every where made it my plan to desert supposition and follow certainty, I shall not, in my account of SOMERSETSHIRE reason with CAMDEN, who places it as a territory inhabited by the Belgæ and the Cangi; nor join Dr. TANNER, who gives the whole of this province to the Cangi; nor shall I enquire whether OSTORIUS marched through this country to conquer the Silures; nor whether the river Avon was called Antona by TACITUS; nor indeed shall I be solicitous about any other circumstance that may tend to bewilder instead of gratify the reader.

SOMERSETSHIRE is washed on the north-west by the BRISTOL Channel, on the north it is bounded by GLOUCESTERSHIRE, on the east by WILTSHIRE and a part of DEVONSHIRE and DORSETSHIRE, and on the west solely by DEVONSHIRE. It is sixty

miles in length from east to west, fifty in breadth from north to south, and two hundred in circumference. It is divided into forty two hundreds, and contains three cities and thirty-two market towns. This large county is seated in the province of CANTERBURY and diocese of BATH and WELLS; has nearly four hundred parishes, and sends eighteen members to parliament.

The principal rivers in SOMERSETSHIRE are the Avon, the Brent, and the Parret. The Brent, also called the Bry, and sometimes the Bru, rises in SELWOOD FOREST, in the west part of the county; and running westward, divides the land into two equal parts, and falls into the BRISTOL Channel, a few miles north of BRIDGEWATER. The Paret or Pedrid, rises near CREWKERNE; and running north west, is joined by the Ivel or Evel, the Tone or Thone, the Ordred, and some other small rivers, and discharges itself into BRIDGEWATER-BAY. A description of the Avon will come in another place. The other rivers, which are much less considerable, are the Frome, which washes the eastern part of the county, the Axe, the Ex, and the Tor.

As to the face of the country, the Mendip hills, which extend east and west from FROME and SELWOOD to AXBRIDGE, and south and north from GLASTONBURY to BRISTOL, are famous for lead mines and coals. The coals are in general excellent, but the lead is not so good as that found in DERBYSHIRE; for, in melting, it runs into knots, and therefore it is either exported or cast into bullets. At the west end of these hills, near the surface, is found *lapis caliminaris*, discovered not very lately however, to be the matrix of zink. It serves to change copper into brass, and has several medical uses. I know not how far the lead mines produce a compensation for the inconvenience they occasion, but they prove fatal to men, cattle, and trees. The miners, therefore, live at as great a distance as possible, and the owners of such cattle as feed near the places where the lead ore is washed, employ persons on purpose to keep them away from the smoke.

These hills in general, but particularly about BATH, on the side of the Avon, are rocky and barren. In places is found a peculiar species of oker, both red and

yellow; the latter sometimes in powder so impalpable that it is as fine to the touch as hair powder. Various ores, lumps of emery, and manganese, and yellow and white spars, have also been discovered. This county, however, has nothing so curious as the fossil called BRISTOL stone, the characteristics of which are hardness and a natural polish. Indeed it is so beautiful, that nothing but our intimate knowledge of it could hinder it from being considered as extremely valuable; but this is in the nature of mankind. The rose, which we allow to be the loveliest of flowers, is robbed of our affection by exotic novelty.

These stones are found in great plenty in the rocks and on the banks of the AVON near BRISTOL, and they present themselves in such various forms as mock the art of the lapidary. About CLIFTON they resemble table diamonds; in other places they have the appearanee of rose diamonds, and are sometimes placed in such numbers, every one with so many angles, and the light so variously reflected, that no cluster of brilliants set by a jeweller, can be more beautifully arranged. As BATH and BRISTOL made no part of my tour in 1798, I shall confine myself at present to those towns I then visited, at some of which I received additional pleasure by my introduction to your friends.

On Wednesday the 22nd of August, I left TIVERTON, and arrived at WELLINGTON, where I was informed the inhabitants carry on a mannfacture of serges, druggets, and other woollen stuffs, and have also a considerable pottery. The town was empty, owing to the races at TAUNTON, where I arrived on the following day, and I must confess I met there with much attention and received great pleasure.

TAUNTON is beautifully situated on the river Thone, in the road from BRISTOL to EXETER. It is forty-seven miles south-west of BRISTOL, thirty-one north east of EXETER, and a hundred and forty-seven west by south of LONDON. It is one of the largest boroughs in the kingdom. It became for a time the seat of that unnatural war, through which CHARLES the First was dethroned and beheaded; and, in consequence of the adherence of the inhabitants to the parliament, CHARLES

the second razed the walls of their castle, and took away their charter, of which they were deprived for seventeen years, and which afterwards was renewed in a very incomplete state. There is no prison at TAUNTON for criminals or debtors, nor have the mayor's officers any power to arrest. Indeed it is the meanest corporation in the kingdom, for they have neither lands, houses, nor joint stock of money; and thus, as the members are men of large property, and as what is every body's business is nobody's business, their decrees are so wavering and so inconsistent, and the execution of them so contemptibly delegated, that it is impossible for any thing to be more shabbily dispensed.

Two gentlemen, one of whom you know, on the road from HONITON to TAUNTON, were treated improperly at a turnpike, by a woman who wanted very grossly to impose upon them. They resisted her unreasonable demand, threw down what was her actual due, and rode on. While they were at dinner at TAUNTON, a stage coach drove up with the turnpike woman on the roof of it. The gentlemen were presently cited before a magistrate, who placed such an implicit reliance on the woman's veracity, that some signal marks of magisterial indignation might have been manifested, had not one of the gentlemen warned the justices to take care lest he should incur a worse punishment than that he seemed about to inflict, for that no crime had been committed, or, even if any had, he was incompetent to punish it, because the turnpike stood in DEVONSHIRE. I had some conversation with this very magistrate in 1799, at which time, for a reason I could give, my tongue itched to tell him the story.

In 1798, I found TAUNTON, which I believe is its general character, an assemblage of intelligence, spirit, opulence, and elegance. For the rest, the lower order of the inhabitants are the children of industry. My intelligence says that eleven hundred looms have been employed at one time in weaving serges, durays, sagatees, and shalloons.

It was at TAUNTON that the insatiable monster, KIRK, committed many of his cruel pranks. He hanged nineteen of its inhabitants, without trial or process,

in spite of the cries and intreaties of their wives and children, and that he might divert himself with their misery, and mock at the execution of these unfortunate men, he made the fifes play and drums accompany such tunes as he thought would be most galling to them. Thirty more who had been condemned by the wretch JEFFERIES, were executed by three toasts, which he gave as signals at dinner. Ten were led out on drinking to the king, ten to the queen, and ten to JEFFERIES.

On Friday the twenty-fourth, I arrived at BRIDGEWATER, where I found myself among your friends. This town is situated on the river Parret, and though oddly and irregularly arranged, is large and populous, From many causes it is an opulent and a rich town. I before observed that I found it the only place, except EXETER, where I was refused paper for money. It is extremely well situated, so as to enjoy the benefits of navigation. Vessels of two hundred tons may come up to the quay; the head of which is ornamented by a beautiful iron bridge, rather larger I believe than that at COLEBROOK-DALE, but not so large as that at SUNDERLAND.

Its foreign trade extends chiefly to PORTUGAL and NEWFOUNDLAND, and the receipt of the customs amounts annually to a large sum. BIRMINGHAM, SHEFFIELD, and WOLVERHAMPTON articles are largely manufactured here, and a spirit of industry and its concomitant content are manifested in the opulence and independance of the neighbourhood. The coasting trade of BRIDGEWATER is to BRISTOL, WALES and CORNWALL. Its imports are various; one great article is wool from IRELAND. The tide comes in so rapidly that in half an hour and often I believe a shorter time, the water raises from twelve to eighteen feet perpendicular. At these times are washed in a prodigious quantity of fish, sometimes of such kinds as they are not always taught to expect; the shrimps, however, which are beyond doubt the finest in ENGLAND, come every day in shoals.

On Saturday the twenty-fifth I dined at WELLS, which of course received its name from the many wells or springs that are to be found in its neighbourhood. It is situated nineteen miles south of BRISTOL, twenty south by west of BATH, and

one hundred and twenty-seven west by north of LONDON. It is a place of great promise, the streets being broad and the houses handsome, and the cathedral, together with the apartments appropriated to the clerical and lay members, occupy a large tract of ground. In this close is the bishop's palace, and a chapel dedicated to ST. JOHN, all which make, I think, upon the whole, the most handsome and capital range of buildings of this description I have any where seen. The front of the cathedral and the painted windows are very justly admired by curious travellers.

Two miles north west of WELLS, in the lower part of the south side of MENDIP HILLS, is the famous grotto called OKEY or WOKEY HOLE, the inside of which resembles the body of a cathedral, the effect of the roof being framed by nature, or rather perhaps chance, out of craggy fragments of pendant and irregular rocks. From the roof there is a constant dripping of clear water, containing, however, lapidescent particles, which unite on the ground, and form themselves into stony cones. A great number of these were cut away to adorn POPE's grotto, which it is curious to observe, is now in the possession of Lord MENDIP. In this place you are led from one cavern to another, in one of which is a rivulet, about ten feet wide and three feet deep. The water is clear and cold. We are informed that trouts and eels have been discovered in it, at which the naturalists have been not a little puzzled; for this river is the first source of the Ax, and after its course through the cavern, it descends fifty feet to the level ground, and a little further turns a paper-mill.

I left WELLS, and consequently SOMERSETSHIRE, on Sunday the twenty sixth, for on that day I arrived at MARLBOROUGH. I passed of course through FROME and DEVIZES, but in the following year I once more visited these places, and therefore an account of them will come better hereafter. When I again take up the subject, I shall enumerate many curious particulars relative to SOMERSETSHIRE. At present, as I am got a considerable way into my first volume, owing to the good company of my DEVONSHIRE and CORNISH friends, that I may not complete it before I introduce some of my northern tour, and a part of SCOTLAND, I shall say nothing further here than that by the way of NEWBURY and READING, I pursued

my journey to LONDON, and arrived at LEICESTER-PLACE, on Thursday the thirtieth.

I am, with many thanks for the assistance you have given me, of which I shall take care to avail myself for my own sake,

My dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, Yours very truly

March 30, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XXVI.

THE ENGLISH AND THE SCOTCH. *

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I KNOW a gentleman who found himself under the unpleasant necessity of fighting a duel. He felt sufficiently bold; his mind was completely equal to the task; and, having an honest cause, he yielded to the impulse of tyrant custom, how far at the expence of prudence and good sense must for ever remain a doubt; for some men of tried courage have pronounced this deliberate appeal brutal, and others of equal valour honourable. But lest with all his resolution he might waver between these opinions, and from the infirmity of nature entertain scruples not exactly becoming a duellist, this gentleman determined to chuse for his second the man in the world best fitted by nature and education to keep him from flinching.

The task I have set myself is not so tremendous as fighting a duel, nor can it be called warfare, not even literary warfare. There may perhaps be a little sparring, but this will be nothing. Pens would be useless without argument, and

* As I conceived that the sentiments contained here would have a more candid and independant effect by being introduced in a general letter, I also considered this place, immediately before the commencement of my Northern Tour, as the situation most suitable to it. I have the pleasure to acknowledge that I insert it with the warmest approbation of my friends.

and paper-makers might ransack nature from the papyrus to straw, and reap their labour for their pains, were it not fair by the law of nature, the best equitable criterion in the world, to broach opinions to correct others, even at the hazard of self-correction. As prudence, however, according to FALSTAFF, is the best part of valour, lest this hobby horse of noting and observing, to illustrate one figure by another, should carry me away too fast, grow restive, distance me, or run on the wrong side of the post, I have chosen a whole halanx of seconds to see that I both give and receive fair play.

To be more serious, I feel highly flattered and very proud that so large a number of intelligent and respectable friends have so willingly consented to receive and sanction my remarks before they are submitted to public inspection; and, for reasons that I shall not trouble you with, though I may hint them to some other member of this kind confederacy, I feel much gratification in having obtained your consent to afford me your advice and assistance; and, as I mean in this letter to venture some strong opinions on a subject which requires to be treated with delicacy and judgment, I may well consider myself fortunate in your concurrence with my request.

You have passed, I believe a considerable portion of time in SCOTLAND; and, though I cannot precisely tell your sentiments of that country and its inhabitants, yet, as I know you love rectitude and are an enemy to folly and frivolity, I hope I shall so far be able to compliment my own opinion as to find it agree with yours. As I go into nothing partially but every thing generally in this work, I shall here draw a parallel, not between CORNWALL and the HIGHLANDS, nor between LONDON and EDINBURGH, but between the English and the Scotch, and my fidelity to fair and unequivocal rectitude obliges me to declare, that, as far as my observations have given me opportunity to determine, the Scotch have seldom been candidly treated when this comparison has been made; for they are often described as a frigid, cautious, and suspicious people, slow in determination, distant in manner, and strangers to cordiality.

If these assertions were true, the last charge would be a heavy one; but let them be fairly examined and they will be found to have no existence but in the imaginations of those who have promulgated them. A man, with ingenuity and acrimony enough in his composition for the purpose, goes into SCOTLAND predetermined to cavil at every thing. He stops his ears and covers his eyes, and then comes back and tells you that he neither saw nor heard any thing worth attending to.

It is not because a man disdains to make a parade of his courteousness that he is not civil any more than not being ostentatious of riches is a proof of poverty. Indiscriminate liberality in either case is a sort of profligacy; it manifests ignorant pride and weak judgment. It has been also too often a custom to estimate the value of the Scotch by the test of our experience of their conduct in ENGLAND, an illiberality, however, that has never been otherwise than partial, and I believe has now almost wholly subsided; but did it yet obtain, and even with reason, it would be in the same partial degree, for it is impossible to deny that ENGLAND has been greatly benefited by luminous and splendid abilities from SCOTLAND; besides, were the merits of every nation to be tried by the merits of its emigrants, I have no doubt, and I pay my country the highest compliment in the power of human ingenuity, that ENGLAND might be considered as the most pitiful nation upon the face of the earth. No; there is no danger that any thing but discontent, disaffection, and infamy should emigrate from ENGLAND, and the sooner these leave it the better.

I shall discover my sentiments with fair and unshackled sincerity. I take an Englishman to be a character of the noblest and most independant honour, full of open and generous benevolence, and with a heart beating to excite and indulge gratitude; yet has this sterling ore a considerable alloy of credulity, weakness, and capriciousness. He instantaneously grants a kindness from his very soul, and yielding to the impulse of the moment, executes his intention to the letter, without considering how far he ought to keep a promise with fidelity that he has made without consideration. By this means, like a barrister who argues without studying his brief, he either under or over does his part, and takes infinite pains

to perform trifles, or else endeavours what his strength cannot accomplish. Weighing an anchor by the cable instead of working the capstan, or using the club of HERCULES to kill a fly.

A Scotchman is the reverse of all this. An economist in every thing, a character surely that cannot be soberly considered as a reproach, he weighs and considers before he promises. Thus, being seldom mistaken in his ground, he treads it every time with fresh confidence; his conduct, which was at first polite, and afterwards civil, for I make no less distinction between these words, than that the first implies doubt and the second safety; warms into attention and kindness, and if the circumstance admits ripens into friendship. This character can revolt none but the inconsiderate. Temperance is genial and matures, heat is vehement and destroys; and whatever may be the vivid feelings of spontaneous benevolence, they exhaust themselves in their own violence, unless regulated by reflection, and confirmed by reason.

I do not find that a Scotchman is a phlegmatic character; on the contrary the common manners of SCOTLAND are extremely like those formerly of FRANCE. There is a gaiety, a freedom, a vivacity, alike inviting and gratifying; but there the comparison ends. No studied art is hid under a specious disguise; nothing is attempted that can militate against your peace; they do not smile to betray; all which are faint, very faint characteristics of the French, who pretend to be what the Scotch really are. Their mirth is approved before it is uttered, and the consciousness of an inclination to oblige begets a conviction that their sincerity will not be suspected.

This disposition arises from a sobriety of mind. Chearfulness is the constant attendant of integrity. The Scotch are patient, laborious, persevering, and, if their portion of riches be but small, they enhance its value and give its enjoyment zest, by a reflection that it has been earned without injustice; and, therefore, if their mirth is without bounds, it is also without reproach. There is a peculiar candour in the Scotch, which I cannot but admire. A man strives to get up in the world. If his means are but trifling he must be assisted. Should

there be this necessity, he does not skulk, he does not blink the question; his intentions are honorable, and there is no crime in his expedient. He at once advertises in his own name for a sum of money, and mentions the conditions on which it is requested, and whoever has read the Scotch papers, but particularly those printed in large towns, will have seen that instead of A. and B. and Y. and Z. under which signatures similar applications lurk in ENGLAND, the names of FERGUSON, MACLANE, and other native appellations, are published without shame, to procure assistance for the purpose of raising decent means by laudable industry.

This is a national advantage, and, as far as it goes, precludes swindling. How many masks would drop off were it adopted here? but I know not how it is. We have frankness enough in our hearts, but not in our practice. We have no objection to face lions, but we turn away from shadows; and, it is upon this account that there is more tittle tattle and slander in ENGLAND than any where else; though after all, the world cannot shew a people, the integrity of whose conduct might not more critically be tried by any ordeal. All the mystery lies in the concealment; and, like the pittance of the poor Spartan, becomes more an object of pity than ridicule when it is disclosed. For my part, I care not how many discoveries are made, if it were only to discomfit newspapers and tea-tables. But to return to the Scotch.

What instances of indefatigable perseverance do we daily see in the Scotch pedlars, who generally, if I may trust my information, become independant, and render whole families so, when, at no very advanced stage of life, they return home. What have they done beside? They have lain in a stock of intelligence and experience, the reflection and imparting of which, add to their gains the very enjoyment that exercises and delights the mind when the body has done its duty, and pants for rest and tranquility. Their intercourse with mankind, among whom they have resided as spectators, supplies an inexhaustible fund of amusement for those about them, and thus they lie up comfortably, and are constantly grateful for that self-earned delight so infinitely more gratifying than the possession of hereditary fortune.

Much more than I have here spoken of I shall find opportunity practically to elucidate in the course of my work. It will be enough, therefore, at present to advance one more position, which will shew, that however in the aggratate, the English possess higher mental qualities, their obligations are to nature, while the Scotch owe almost every thing to themselves. Remember I still argue generally. There have been fewer great men in ENGLAND, comparatively, than in SCOTLAND; but those we have to boast of, have been superlatively so. In ENGLAND genius has performed miracles with but little profound erudition. In SCOTLAND erudition has performed almost every excellence with the assistance of but little genius.

A short view of the real distinction between genius and erudition will determine this point, and clearly maintain a preponderance in favour of the English. Genius is full of simplicity, erudition of subtilty; therefore, whatever is written merely for fame, will ever be least likely to obtain it. The reason is, that the wisdom procured by study and labour continually seeks that perfection it will never find; whereas, the effusions of genius come perfect from the heart, and cannot be excelled. One thought, though but of little import in itself, may, by the force of phrase and epithet, be fashioned into a hundred forms equally correct and cold; and authors, by dint of merit, may refine till style is lost in system. A man of genius will write point, because he has only to chuse from among a multitude of faithful ideas: a man of erudition will write measure, because what his compositions want for the heart he is obliged to supply for the ear. The most celebrated poets have ever been the most faulty; and I will venture to pronounce that, could a book be written without a single imperfection, it would be produced by a man of little genius: great minds cannot condescend to servility.

Erudition cannot be acquired but by long labour and intense study. To genius, the best passages cost the least trouble. A writer of brilliant fancy will form rules of his own, while men of ordinary capacity will never vary from those already known. In short, erudition is the graft of a tree, through which, by judicious care, fruit may be brought to perfection; but genius is the tree itself,

containing all those nutrimental qualities, without which it could produce no fruit at all.

Distinguishing works of genius as great, and those of erudition as good, compositions, the balance is much in favour of the English writers as to the first; witness the productions of CHAUCER, SPENSER, and SHAKESPEAR; as to the latter, perhaps BUCHANAN, BLAIR, and HUME, had GIBBON never lived, might have given SCOTLAND a pre-eminence; but, where there is a perfect union of the great and the good, perhaps the authors of every nation must sink before BACON and NEWTON. Our business, however, is to see the general bearing of these different degrees of excellence as they regard society, which I believe will reduce the argument to this: the great and the good united, delight only the select; the great, which I have proved, contains a large portion of the good, begets the admiration of the judicious; and the good, standing upon its own sober merit, satisfies all readers, because it comes within their comprehension.

Here then comes the natural explanation of my position. Works of utility are those which establish the literary reputation of a nation; and thus it comes, that BACON, NEWTON, CHAUCER, and SPENSER are unknown to all but the curious and the scientific; that SHAKESPEAR is the subject of perpetual cavil; that MILTON received but an inconsiderable trifle for his works; and that HUME was paid five thousand pounds for his History of ENGLAND, and ROBERTSON four thousand five hundred for his CHARLES the Fifth.

As I shall blend the characters of the English and Scotch in the course of this work, and produce them upon the same canvass, this sketch may answer every introductory purpose. In the picture itself, if the English have most relief, and come more into the foreground, so will they be most unequal; for prominent lights cannot be set off but by deep shadows, while the Scotch will form that medium, and preserve that keeping and consistency, which are the true admiration of the critical artist; and, without which, the best imagined composition would be deprived of its happiest effect.

Leicester-Place, Yours, my dear Sir, very truly,
April 3, 1800. C. DIBDIN

LETTER XXVII.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY ESTIMABLE FRIEND,

HAVING now prepared my way, both as to narrative and illustration, for my first northern tour, I shall beg the favour of you to accompany me till I reach WESTMORELAND, which, however, will take up some time; for, though I made good expedition to get there, as I shall have no future opportunity, relative to HERTFORDSHIRE, BEDFORDSHIRE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, and STAFFORDSHIRE, of giving those general descriptions which I have taken within my plan, I had better at once bring up my account, and get my ground clear, in order to pursue, at my leisure, those objects on which I had occasion to make more critical observations.

On Saturday, March 25, 1799, I left LEICESTER-PLACE, having planned every day's employment till I should return to town on the 10th of the following July, which arrangement I kept without a single deviation. I dined at BARNET, slept at HATFIELD, and, on the following day, reached BEDFORD. I have, in the course of my life, known HERTFORDSHIRE so well, that from common experience I am competent to give a tolerable account of it; but, as it will be material that I should hereafter devote some time to the subject of agriculture, and, as I shall have a better opportunity of going into it when I have instanced the improve-

ments in SCOTLAND, and shewn as far as my limits will permit, how both countries have been benefited by mutual communication, I shall at present only take up those general objects which mark the character of this county so valuable to the fortune, and reputable to the exertions of the English farmer.

HERTFORDSHIRE is wonderfully rich and fertile, but not very large, for it extends only thirty-three miles in length from east to west, about thirty in breadth from north to south, and a hundred and thirty miles in circumference. It is entirely an inland county, bounded on the north by CAMBRIDGESHIRE and BEDFORDSHIRE, on the east by ESSEX, on the south by MIDDLESEX, and on the west by BUCKINGHAMSHIRE and BEDFORDSHIRE. It is divided into eight hundreds; but the magistrates, for the greater convenience of themselves and the inhabitants, have separated the whole county into three parts, in each of which, they hold courts and petty sessions. It lies in the province of CANTERBURY, and is partly in the diocese of LONDON and partly in that of LINCOLN. It has no city, but it contains eighteen market towns, a hundred and twenty parishes, and sends six members to parliament.

HERTFORDSHIRE is well watered by rivers and brooks, the principal of which are the Lee, or Lea, the Stort, the Colne, the Ver, and the New River. I shall describe the course of the Lea in my account of ESSEX. The Stort rises in the north west of the county; and, passing by BISHOP-STOPFORD, separates HERTFORDSHIRE and ESSEX, and falls into the Lee near HADDISON. The Colne rises near BISHOP'S-HATFIELD, passes by WATFORD, separates BUCKINGHAMSHIRE from MIDDLESEX, and falls into the Thames near STAINES. The Ver or More rises in the south west part of the county, passes by St. ALBANS, and falls into the Coln.

Of the New River, which has its source near WARE, the history is so well known by the exertions of Mr. MIDDLETON, who ruined himself, and became in consequence a knight, and at length was contented per force with a small stipend from that body, since known by the title of the New River Company, that it is unnecessary I should so far deviate as to speak particularly of it. There are smaller rivers which enrich the meadows of this county, and produce a variety of fish.

I arrived at HATFIELD pretty early, and therefore took that opportunity of paying a visit to the grounds of the Marquis of SALISBURY, which would have given me delight had I been only a common spectator; but, my satisfaction being heightened by a consciousness of the protection that nobleman affords me, so generously, so warmly, and in a manner so admirably beneficient, I felt the most lively gratification in contemplating the splendid dwelling of my patron, and breathed a fervent wish that his happiness might be as lasting as my gratitude, which can never terminate but with my existence, nor indeed, even then will its operation cease, but extend to those I leave behind me, who have at this moment so much reason to rejoice that I have proudly to boast of so dignified, so powerful, so munificent a protector.

BARNET is famous for being the most dangerous first stage from LONDON, as to robberies; for its free school, founded by Queen ELIZABETH; for the decisive battles between the Houses of YORK and LANCASTER, in which the great WARWICK fell; and for its convenient distance and favourable situation for amorous excursions. The town has nothing remarkable, but it is the key to a most beautiful country. St. ALBANS, as to itself, has very little to boast of, but the neighbourhood around is richly ornamented with gentlemen's seats. This place, which before JULIUS CÆSAR, was the ancient Verulam, has as many pretensions to celebrity as antiquity can give it. It takes its name from an abbey built in 703 to the memory of ALBANUS, the first martyr of BRITAIN, who suffered under the Dioclesian persecution, and was canonized as a saint.

St. ALBANS sent members to parliament as early as any borough in the kingdom. It is large and populous, and has four parish churches; one of them, St. ALBANS, was founded by OFFA, King of the Mercians in 793, on the spot where St. ALBAN was martyred. In this ancient building are monuments of the Saint, of OFFA, and of HUMPHREY the good Duke of GLOUCESTER. We are told, that about eighty years ago, a vault was discovered in this church where the remains of this duke, so celebrated for his virtues, was found in a kind of pickle, and in every respect entire, except that the flesh had shrunk from the legs, owing to the pickle having in that part of the coffin dried up.

HERTFORD, the county town, is large and populous, but it has lost much of its consequence, since the great northern road has been diverted through WARE, in the same manner that SHAFTSBURY has suffered to the advantage of BLANDFORD, HERTFORD is built in the form of the Roman letter Y, and the castle is placed between the two horns. It had five churches, and has now but two. There is a free school, which was founded in the reign of JAMES the First, by RICHARD HALE, Esq. whose heirs or representatives still appoint the master.

WARE, which is situated twenty two miles north of LONDON, has for the reason given above, become a considerable post town, and a very bustling place. It is remarkable, as we have seen, for being the source of the New-River, which their own safety seems originally to have suggested, for they were formerly in danger occasionally of inundations from the various rivers that surround them, to prevent which inconvenience they invented a kind of dam called a wayre, or wear, whence this town is supposed to have taken its name ; but this however, has not been necessary since the water has been directed into a channel, which has cured their annoyance, and which diffuses a material necessary of life through a large part of the metropolis.

The air of HERTFORDSHIRE is so pure and healthy, that it is often recommended by physicians for valetudinarians, and it is said on this account, that those who buy an estate in HERTFORDSHIRE ought to pay two years purchase in addition, for the advantage afforded by the air. The principal plants of an uncommon description that grow wild in this county are but few.

A kind of mountainous chick-weed, resembling stone bazil. *An alsines minoris alia,* is found near CHALFONT ST. PETER. Yellow loosestrive, *Lysimachia lutea flore globoso.* It is not the glaura, nor the willow herb ; the flowers grow prettily enough in a tuft, it may be gathered near KING'S-LANGLEY. Peppermint, or *mentha piperata,* is said to grow plentifully in this county. Fresh-water soldier, or water aloe, *militares aizoides,* is seen in the ditches near HATFIELD. Marsh twayblade, or *ophrys bifolia,* of which LINNEUS enumerates nineteen, and MILLER nine species, is to be found between HATFIELD and ST. ALBAN'S. It is however,

by no means a rare plant, for it grows in many moist grounds in different parts of the kingdom. It has been reckoned astringent and agglutinating, and good to consolidate ruptures and heal wounds, but its application in any way is now out of practice. The greater fly orchis, *orchis miodes major,* a plant akin to, and indeed it is said to be the same as that, the root of which makes salep, or what is vulgarly called saloop, for it is certain that common English orchis has every quality of that which is brought from TURKEY; the advantage is in the manner of preparing it. The medicinal virtues of salep are well known. It is a singular plant and should be cultivated in gardens. It is found at WELLING, in HERTFORDSHIRE.

Broad-leaved bastard hellebore, with a white close flower, *helleborine latifolio flore albo clauso,* grows near DIGGESWELL. MILLER reckons four of this species, LINNEUS six. The medicinal virtues of hellebore have been so variously extolled, that taking in all the accounts and admitting them to be true, it might be pronounced a universal remedy. This sort therefore, to venture a pun, cannot boast the legitimate virtues of the true hellebore. Jagged cow parsnep, *sphondylium,* or *heracleum.* The seeds of this plant are recommended by Dr. WILLIS and others, as one of the best nervous simples our nation produces. It is most excellent in hysteric cases, given either in powder or infusion.

HERTFORDSHIRE is not very remarkable for celebrated characters, at least as to their number; the value of some of them is, however, a compensation. NICHOLAS BREAKSPEAR, known by his merit and learning, but more under the title of Pope ADRIAN the Fourth, was born at ABBOT'S-LANGLEY. FRANCIS BACON, Viscount ST. ALBANS, and Lord High Chancellor of ENGLAND, one of the greatest men produced in any age or country, and whose weight in the scale of genius has facilitated that preponderance of extraordinary talents in our favour, which all other countries are compelled to feel and acknowledge, was born at CORHAMBURY. HERBERT THORNDYKE, a man of great learning, was rector of BARLEY. THOMAS KEN, a pious prelate of the seventeenth century, who opposed with great zeal the progress of popery, and was one of the seven bishops committed to the TOWER, was a native of BERKHAMPSTEAD.

Sir RICHARD FANSHAW, an able statesman and a good poet, was born at WARE, and educated under the learned THOMAS FARNABY. Dr. SETH WARD, bishop of SALISBURY; who, as well as a learned divine, was a good mathematician, and who published many philosophical, mathematical, and theological works, was a native of BUNTINGFORD, and brought up at the free school there. GUNTER, the great mathematician, who invented the famous scale so well known to navigators, and discovered that the variation of the needle varies, or that it is not always the same in the same place, was born in HERTFORDSHIRE, and died at GRESHAM-COLLEGE, OXFORD. WALLER, the celebrated lyric poet was a native of COLESHILL, and with him I finish my account of HERTFORDSHIRE, and this letter.

Leicester-Place, Yours very truly,

May 10, 1801.

C. DIBDIN.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

	Barkway	Barnet	Berkhampstead	Buntingford	Hartford	Hatfield	Hitchen	Puckeridge	Rickmansworth	St. Albans	Stevenage	Stortford	Ware	Watford	London
Thur. Baldock to	18	26	39	14	17	23	5	19	31	21	6	28	20	28	38
Barkway to		31	30	8	19	23	23	8	46	29	23	15	14	35	35
Mond. Barnet to			21	29	16	9	23	25	13	10	21	32	19	10	11
Berkhampstead to				43	30	23	32	38	14	15	36	45	33	11	26
Buntingford to					23	20	19	4	36	25	19	11	10	32	34
* † Sat. Hartford to						6	20	9	21	13	12	16	3	19	21
Thur. Hatfield to							14	15	16	5	12	22	10	13	20
Tues. Hitchen to								24	30	20	4	31	23	27	34
Puckeridge to									29	20	24	7	6	28	27
Ricksmansworth to										11	26	38	25	3	19
* † W.& S. St. Albans to											16	28	16	8	22
Wed. Stevenage to												31	23	28	31
Thur. Stortford to													13	34	36
Fr. Ware to														22	21
Tu. Watford to															15

A table of distances in HERTFORDSHIRE. Corporation Towns, each governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are marked thus *; boroughs thus †; and market towns have the initials of the days placed before them.

The members for the county are not included.

LETTER XXVIII.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

BEDFORDSHIRE is a small county, being only thirty-six miles long, eighteen broad, and about a hundred in circumference. On the north and north west, it is bounded by NORTHAMPTONSHIRE; on the south, by HERTFORDSHIRE; and on the west, by BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. It is in the province of CANTERBURY, and diocese of LINCOLN; it contains nine hundred and eleven market towns, a hundred and twenty-four parishes, and sends four members to parliament.

I am compelled to take this county in the same summary way I did HERTFORDSHIRE; having merely touched BEDFORD, my route being always circuitous, in my way to NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. The rivers in BEDFORDSHIRE are the Ouse, the Ivel, and the Ouzel. The first of these is navigable from LYNN in NORFOLK to BEDFORD. It rises in BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, and, in crossing the county of BEDFORD, makes a course of nearly seventy miles, entering it between BRADFIELD and TURVEY, and leaving it at ST. NEOT'S, on the borders of HUNTINGDONSHIRE; after which it meanders through that county and CAMBRIDGESHIRE, passes through the ISLE of ELY, then, receiving the waters of the Cam, it falls into the sea at LYNN.

The Ivel is navigable to BIGGLESWADE, and might be made so to HITCHEN; for there it joins with a branch of the lea, which rises also in this county, and empties stself into the Thames a little below BLACKWALL. The Ouzel divides the county from BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, forming a junction with the Ouse at NEWPORT-PAGNEL.

BEDFORDSHIRE is a very productive county. It was formerly overrun with woods, and had a great number of parks, and plenty of deer. Agriculture, however, is now very sedulously followed, and the breed of black cattle and sheep, particularly the latter, is very much encouraged. It abounds also in fullers earth, an ar icle of so much consequence to this country in the clothing trade, that its exportation is forbid by act of parliament. Woad is cultivated here, and the wheat and barley is very plentiful and remarkably fine. I noticed myself five and twenty years ago, that great quantities of seed wheat were produced both in HERTFORDSHIRE and BEDFORDSHIRE. The manufactures are bone lace, and straw wares, particularly hats, which the very name of DUNSTABLE will confirm. I reserve my observations upon woad till I speak of YORKSHIRE, from whence I have, agreeable to the promise that had been made me, which I speak of in my account of KENT, I am now in possession of some valuable particulars.

BEDFORD is fifty miles from LONDON. It is a clean well built populous town. The bridge over the Ouse appears to cut it in two, so that it has in some respects, the appearance of two towns. The liberties of the corporation extend about nine miles round the town; and a member having long since bequeathed the land in which now stands THEOBALD'S-ROW, RED-LION-STREET, EAGLE-STREET, and other places in the neighbourhood of RED-LION-SQUARE, HOLBORN, the leases have fallen in. and an act of parliament has been obtained to appropriate the rents to charitable foundations, which great advantage renders the lower orders of the inhabitants unusually comfortable.

DUNSTABLE, which is thirty-three miles from LONDON, is calculated for a variety of things, but for nothing so much as its straw hats. A great deal is related of Roman stations, relics, coins, celtic tumuli, and ruinated priories, to all

which I have no objection, and the traveller is told as a matter of very great consequence, that the sentence of divorce of HENRY the Eighth from Queen CATHARINE was pronounced at DUNSTABLE by archbishop CRANMER.

HOCKLIFFE, commonly called HOCKLEY IN THE HOLE, is four miles beyond DUNSTABLE. It is a horrid dirty place, especially after rain. It is plentifully provided with inns, though a mere village. WOBURN has nothing in it remarkable, except its vicinity to WOBURN-ABBEY. We are told that about a mile and a half from this place the earth has the property of turning wood into stone; but the utmost that could be proved in support of this assertion is that wood has been crusted over with a kind of spar, and this has apparently taken such a length of time, that no man has lived long enough to witness the beginning and the end of the process.

The air is temperate and clear, and consequently healthy, and the soil is exceedingly fruitful, particularly on the north side of the Ouse. A gold mine was once found near AMPTHILE, but it was not worth working. There are very few uncommon plants and herbs in this county. Maiden pinks, which the seedsmen call the mated pink, is a common species of the *dianthus,* and found plentifully in sandy soil. The later autumnal gentian with leaves like centaury, *Gentianella fugax autumnialis elatior.* It is a species of the falwort. We have heard enough, perhaps too much of its medicinal virtues in the news-papers. Milk tree of Dioscorides. It is a glaux but not of that species which is called sea chickweed. White lily of the valley, *lilium convallium album,* is found near WOBURN in great plenty, and is the sort with which the London markets are supplied.

As for celebrated characters, EVERDON, so called from the place of his birth, was bishop of CARLISLE, and Lord Chancellor in the reign of HENRY the Third. In the same place was born TIPTOFT, Earl of WORCESTER, and Lord High Constable of ENGLAND in the reign of HENRY the Fourth. At HIGHAM-GOBION was born CASTELL, whose lucubrations are so extensively read. He had a considerable hand in the Polyglot Bible, and was almost the sole author of the Heptoglotton. Sir SAMUEL LUKE, whom BUTLER has immortalized by making him the hero of his wonderful poem of Hudibras, was a native of WOOD-END, near TUDDINGTON.

Edes, Dean of Worcester, and Dillingham, translators of the Bible into English, were natives of Bedfordshire; as was also Norton, one of the versifiers of the Psalms. Bunyan notorious for his Pilgrim's Progress, and other things, was a brazier at Bedford. Rowe was born ot Beckford.

In addition to these characters who were remarkable for mental health, I must not omit two who possessed extraordinary bodily health. One was a woman, whose name I forget, but, who, as we are informed by an epitaph in Dunstable church, had nineteen children in five births, twice five, and three times three; and a Dr. Slace, who at the age of eighty-five cut a new set of teeth, and whose hair from a milk-white became a dark black. He lived after this till he reached beyond a hundred, and then died of a plethora for want of timely bleeding. The faculty attributed his health and long life to an extraordinary use of sugar. So much for Bedfordshire.

My dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, Yours very truly

March 30, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

	Bedford	Biggleswade	Dunstable	Eaton	Hockliff	Luton	Potton	Shefford	Silsoe	Tempsford	Woburn	London
Ampthill to	8	28	12	21	11	21	23	18	11	17	7	46
* † Tu. & S. Bedford to		16	20	9	17	29	12	9	11	9	15	50
Tues. Biggleswade to			25	10	29	23	4	7	12	6	24	45
Wed. Dunstable to				29	4	7	32	22	12	29	12	44
Eaton to					26	30	10	18	20	4	24	54
Hockcliffe to						10	29	26	14	26	5	38
Mon. Luton to							27	14	10	30	18	32
Sat. Potton to								10	14	10	27	48
Frid. Shefford to									5	12	17	41
Silsoe to										20	12	40
Tempsford to											24	50
Frid. Woburn to												42

A table of distances in BEDFORDSHIRE. Corporation Towns, each governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are marked thus *; boroughs thus †; and market towns have the initials of the days placed before them.

The members for the county are not included.

LETTER XXIX.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I shall now entreat the favour of you to accompany me through a part of Northamptonshire, on which county I should certainly be very incompetent to speak to any material effect, and indeed on many other counties, had I not, in addition to the opportunities afforded me by this tour, become pretty intimate with it upon former occasions.

Northamptonshire is seated about the middle of the kingdom, and it runs lengthways over so large a tract of ground as to touch on nine counties; for, on the east it is bounded by Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, and Buckinghamshire; on the south by a part of Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, on the west by Oxfordshire and Warwickshire; and on the north by Leicestershire, Rutland, and Lincolnshire. It extends in length from south-west to north-east, fifty-five miles; in the broadest part from east to west, twenty-six miles, and is a hundred and twenty-five in circumference. It is divided into twenty hundreds; and, over above the city of Peterborough and the town of Northampton, it contains nine market towns and three hundred and thirty parishes. It lies in the province of Canterbury and diocese of Peterboroug, and sends nine members to parliament.

The principal rivers in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, are the Nen, the Welland, the Ouse, the Leam, and the Charwell. The description I have given of the Ouse in the last letter, following the best geographical authorities both in books and on maps, I should willingly abide by, were it not, that an intelligent friend assures me its sourse is in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, near BRACKLEY, where there is a place called OUSE-WELL, in the hundred of SUTTON; and, as this fact appears to be beyond a doubt, VYSE, and other geographers must have taken for the Ouse, what is actually the Ousel, which, as I have already described, has its rise in BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, and joins the Ouse at NEWPORT-PAGNEL; all which will be easily reconciled, if we allow Ousel to be a corruption of Ouse-well. I have mentioned this to shew how extremely difficult it is, even though you get your intelligence on the spot, to steer clear of contradiction.

The Nen, the Leam, and the Charwell, have their different sources from a hill to the south-west of DAVENTRY. The Nen, in a great variety of winding directions, passes nearly through the whole of the county, separates CAMBRIDGESHIRE from LINCOLNSHIRE, and, having received Ire-brook, Harpur-brook, and Willow-brook, and a multitude of smaller streams, falls into the Lynn-washes. The Leam directs its course into WARWICKSHIRE; and the Charwell southward into OXFORDSHIRE, The Welland rises in the hundred of ROTHWELL, near the village of HOWTHORP; and, having passed HARBOROUGH, ROCKINGHAM, and STAMFORD, where it begins to be navigable, it divides NORTHAMPTONSHIRE from LEICESTERSHIRE, RUTLANDSHIRE, and LINCOLNSHIRE, and falls into the Nen to the north-east of PETERBORUGH, so that at any rate, let the foregoing dispute be settled how it may, five considerable rivers have their source in this county.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE is remarkable for different earths of admirable quality, as manure for such grounds which are naturally poor or else worn out. Among these are a marly earth at ADSTONE, a clayey earth at DESBOROUGH, a slatey earth at EAST FARNDON, and a soft white earth at CHADSTON and at WOOD-NEWTON. There are also earths proper for mechanical uses, such as loams of various sorts, at THORP and elsewhere for bell-founders; penny earth in many places, which makes floors as hard as plaister of Paris; of this earth they make combpots for the

wool-combers of JERSEY. Floors are also made of lamb earth. Yellow, purple, and red okers are found near KETTERING and CLIPSTON. There is an excellent clay for bricks, and the pipe clay is so admirable, that it is accounted as good for medicinal uses as the sealed earth brought from the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO The purple oker is as astringent as bole-armoniac and the white earth of CHADSTON, is as good as ceruse for excoriations. This county produces salt-petre; and the rag-stone, got out of WELDON quarry, is little inferior to marble.

NORTHAMPTON is a fine sporting county, and has more gentlemen's seats than any other of the same extent in the kingdom, except immediately round the metropolis. It abounds with woods, lawns, meadows, fields, parks, chases, and gardens. It is equally fit for tillage and pasture. Fuel, of course, is scarce, for there are no coal-pits; and though the rivers take their rise in the county, they do not become navigable till they have left it. Many improvements, however, have been lately, and are now daily made. The cattle of this county are very fine, particularly the sheep.

I arrived at NORTHAMPTON Tuesday, March the 26th. It is a large town, handsome, clean, and populous, and consequently busy. It is sixty-six miles north-west of LONDON. This town certainly remained in a state of obscurity till after the Norman conquest, for which misfortune the inhabitants console themselves by shewing strangers that it must have been originally very ancient, for one of the gates of the priory, as it appears at this moment, is undoubtedly Saxon, and this fact would probably have been apparent in a variety of other instances, had not a fire in 1695 destroyed all the vestiges of Saxon and Roman character, except the above memento; but, as it owes its new face, which is certainly very handsome, to this accident, they must content themselves with being distinguished by modern beauty instead of ancient mutilation.

NORTHAMPTON, by being situated on the great north road, is the most considerable rendezvous in ENGLAND for horse dealers. The market day is on a Saturday, and both principals and agents flock there from LONDON and YORKSHIRE, to set a price on all the horse-flesh intended for the LONDON market. On a neighbouring

down, called PYE LEYS, trials are made and races run, till every quality of the horses are set down and estimated, and so faithfully do they abide by this convention, exactly as middle men buy bullocks, that it is then and there settled how far the YORKSHIRE price is to be enhanced upon, and how much horses are to fetch, coach horses in particular, at the stables of the dealers in town. Nor can this be prevented; for a private gentleman may as well attempt to buy a quarter of oats at MARK-LANE, as a horse at NORTHAMPTON.

The priory at LITTLE BILLING; ALTHORP, a noble seat belonging to the SPENSERS, with its beautiful park, its fine piece of water, and its venetian gondola; HOLDENBY-PALACE, built by Sir CHRISTOPHER HATTON; the hospital for the reception of pilgrims at KINDSTHORP, and many other noble or picturesque objects, give and grace a variety to the neighbourhood of NORTHAMPTON.

TOWCESTER, the inhabitants of which place are extremely proud, because it is certainly built upon the Roman military highway, called WATLING-STREET, they had better, however, be proud that the trade of making bone lace, keeps the industrious parts of the inhabitants in tolerable good circumstances, is but a poor place though, being in the road from LONDON to CHESTER, it has several tolerable inns. BRACKLEY, a neighbouring town, is celebrated for being the third borough erected in ENGLAND, and having been formerly a great staple for wool, and the spot on which were performed tilts and tournaments.

DAVENTRY, a dull dirty place, is situated by the side of BOROUGH-HILL, so called from a very large ancient fortification, from whence there is a pretty extensive prospect of this rich county. The traveller is shewn the military mount, and told a variety of contradictory stories concerning it. The best sight at DAVENTRY, however, is the swarms of children who sit at the doors making lace, and so imbibing the principles of industry from their cradles.

ROCKINGHAM, famous for its castle and forest, both however in ruins; KETTERING, famous for nothing that I know of but its execrable roads; THRAPSTON,

exactly in the same predicament*; HIGHAM-FERRERS, which takes its name from an extraordinary family; and WELLINGBOROUGH, from the number of springs in and near it, are all in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Of the medical springs in this county, Astrop Wells is that in highest esteem, it is a chalybeate. That at KING'S-CLIFF both smells and tastes of iron. Near KING'S-SUTTON there is a mineral spring, which smells intolerably of rotten eggs† The New Well at NORTHAMPTON is also celebrated, and in the time of popery there were several holy stories about it, probably fabricated to answer times and purposes. As I lend but little faith to the wonderful cures these waters are said to perform, I shall abstain from filling up my time and my paper with a catalogue of them.

It does not appear that there are any plants peculiar to NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. That species of the common eryngo, called *vulgare et camerarii* grows near DAVENTRY. Hollow-leaved gentian, or properly sopewort, *saponaria concava anglica*, is found in a wood called the Spinney, near LICKBARROW. Mountain cudweed, or coltsfoot, *gnaphalium montanum sive pes cati*, grows not far from STAMFORD. Common pasque flower, *pulsatilla anglica purpuria*, grows in the same place. Hood water-milfoil, *millefolium pelustre flore luteo galericulato*, is a yarrow, and has been esteemed among the German physicians, as an herb possessing many medicinal qualities, but it is now out of all use. It is to be found in the road between PETERBOROUGH and THORP. I shall close this letter with a brief account of remarkable characters. RICHARD the Third was born at FOTHERINGAY CASTLE, a place fated to produce the author of tragedies, and be the scene of a tragedy itself, for there

* The authors of road books. in their recommendations of inns, are in general very impartial. They are, sometimes, however, at a stand, in which case they balance the truth as well as they can. At THRAPSTON and KETTERING for instance the inns are very indifferent, to say the best of them. They have each a George and a White-Hart, between which there is not a pin to chuse. You are therefore archly desired to prefer the George at one place and the White-Hart at the other, which is exactly the Doctor in the DEVIL UPON STICKS. "What shall we "do with the hospital this week, Sir?" "What did you do last week?"---"We bled the north ward and jallaped "the west!"---"Did you?"---"Why then this week bleed the west ward and jallap the north."

† There is a spring of this description near WEYMOUTH.

was MARY Queen of SCOTS beheaded, of whose unjustifiable treatment, CAMDEN says, "Let it be for ever forgotten, if possible; if not, let it be wrapt up in si- "lence." BROWNE, an English divine, and founder of the sect called Brownists, was born at NORTHAMPTON, and after, in consequence of the mischiefs supposed to be promulgated by his peculiar doctrines, having been in two and thirty prisons, in some of which, according to his own words, he could not see his hand at noon day, he died at the age of eighty in the prison of his own town.

HERVEY, the celebrated author of Meditations among the Tombs, was a native of HARRINGSTONE, near NORTHAMPTON. BERNARD, an astronomer, linguist, and critic of the seventeeth century, was born near TOWCESTER. Bishop WILKINS, an ingenious but very fanciful author, was born at DAVENTRY. His endeavours to prove the possibility of a passage to the moon by means of a flying chariot, and other extravagant flights are sufficient proofs of his eccentricity; but as the speculations of strong minded men generally tend to utility, so many of his communications to the Royal Society, of which he was originally a member, were in a regulated state by them adopted; and, as to his more settled and serious thoughts, it will be sufficiently allowed that they were valuable, when it is recollected that TILLOTSON thought it worth his while to superintend their publication.

CHICHELEY, archbishop of CANTERBURY in the fifteenth century, was born at HIGHAM-FERRERS. He was a popular man, and it was through his persuasion that HENRY the Fifth resolved to assert his title to the crown of FRANCE. GODWIN, bishop, first of LANDAFF, and afterwards of HEREFORD, was a native of HAVINGTON. He had a spice of WILKINS about him, and wrote a book called *The Man in the Moon*, and another called the *Inanimate Courier*; they were both however, written with great ingenuity and learning, but they yielded to his work, called a catalogue of the English bishops, from the first planting of christianity in this island, for the merits of which work Queen ELIZABETH bestowed on him the bishoprick of LANDAFF.

FLETCHER, the colleague of BEAUMONT, whose history every body knows, was born in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. FULLER, author of the British Worthies, was a na-

tive of OLDWINKLE near OUNDLE. RANDOLPH, whose history I have had the particular pleasure of recording in another place, who was the favorite of BEN JONSON, and whose Muses Looking-Glass, is alone capable of immortalizing him, came into the world at NEWNHAM. HARRINGTON, author of the Oceana, and a dangerous republican, and whose unquiet life he might thank his own turbulence for, was born at UPTON. FOSTER, an eminent mathematician, and professor of astronomy at GRESHAM-COLLEGE, was a native of NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

HACKET, the enthusiast, who for his horrid blasphemies, in which he persisted to the last gasp, was hanged and quartered, imbibed his unquiet and frantic existence at OUNDLE. WHITBY, a learned divine, and COLES, known by his dictionary, were natives of NORTHAMPTONSHIRE; so were GASTRIL, bishop of CHESTER, and the celebrated Dr. FRIEND; but the two most extraordinary characters that county produced were HALLIFAX the statesman, and DRYDEN the poet; on either of whom, to say too little would be doing them wrong, and to say too much would be impossible; not that I conceive there can be any comparison in the men, because a great statesman can never, rationally considered, be equal to a great poet; and while many statesmen are produced every century equal to HALLIFAX, it may take many centuries to produce a poet equal to DRYDEN.

Leicester-Place. Yours most sincerely
May 26, 1801.

C. DIBDIN.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

	Daventry	Higham Ferrers	Kettering	Northampton	Oundle	Peterborough	Rockingham	Rothwell	Thrapston	Towcester	Wansford	Wellingborough	London
* † Wed. Brackly to	23	40	39	20	47	62	48	43	42	11	54	31	64
Wed. Daventry to		31	30	12	37	49	39	34	33	12	44	22	72
* † Sat. Higham Ferrers to			10	20	17	30	19	14	10	40	24	9	65
Sat. Kettering to				19	17	30	9	4	9	39	24	7	75
* † Sat. Northampton to					30	42	28	23	22	9	36	11	66
Sat. Oundle to						12	14	21	8	38	7	18	83
* † Sat. Peterborough to							24	34	20	51	8	31	81
Thur. Rockingham to								13	17	40	18	17	84
Mon. Rothwell to									13	43	28	12	79
Tu. Thrapston to										30	15	11	75
• Tu. Towcester to											45	20	60
Wansford to												23	83
Wed. Wellingborough to													68

A table of distances in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. Corporation Towns, each governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are thus distinguished *; boroughs thus †; the market towns have the initials of their names before them.

HIGHAM FERRERS send but one member to parliament; the above, therefore, with the two members for the county, amount to nine.

LETTER XXX.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

As I revisited Leicestershire and Derbyshire, in my second tour to the north, and became more competent at that time to describe the different particulars that characterize those counties, I shall, in this letter, merely take them on the wing, and finish with Staffordshire, a place to which I did not return.

Leicestershire is bounded on the north by Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, on the west by a small part of Derbyshire, Staffordshire, and Warwickshire, on the south by Northamptonshire, and on the east by Rutlandshire and Lincolnshire. It extends from east to west about thirty miles, from north to south about thirty-five, and is about a hundred miles in circumference. It lies in the province of Canterbury and the diocese of Lincoln. It is divided into six hundreds, in which are eleven market towns, a hundred and ninety-two parishes, and it sends four members to parliament.

The principal rivers are the Soar or Soure, the Avon, the Swift, the Welland, and the Wreke. The Avon is not properly a river of this county, for it merely touches its borders. The Swift rises in Leicestershire, but passing by Lutterworth, soon leaves it and flows into Warwickshire. The Welland rises near

HARBOROUGH, and passes by that town, after which it continues its course from east to west, divides LEICESTERSHIRE from NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, enters RUTLANDSHIRE, and, flowing through that county, runs across the south part of LINCOLNSHIRE, and loses itself in that bay of the German Ocean called the wash. The Soar rises between HINKLEY and LUTTERWORTH, and, passing by LEICESTER and LOUGHBOROUGH, falls into the Trent on the edge of DERBYSHIRE. The Wreke, which is an inferior river, rises in the eastern part of the county, and, passing by MELTON MOWBRAY, falls into the Soar above MOUNTSORREL.

There are also a number of inferior rivers and brooks, which are of wonderful service in the cultivation of their grass lands, a very large part of this county being devoted to pasturage, as the well known produce of cattle, particularly sheep, of superior estimation to any in the kingdom, is a striking proof; and, as an advantage of a peculiar description, though it is so well watered, it has neither bogs nor marshes. All this is pretty manifest, for in no county in England of its size are there more opulent farmers and graziers than in LEICESTERSHIRE; and this is proved in an extraordinary manner, for more families have to this day continued there, at the seats from which they originally took their names, than in any other county throughout the kingdom, which shows that the inhabitants are in general better managers, or, which is equally commendable, more tenacious of that affection men naturally have for their respective countries: such sort of tenacity being a proof of affluence, as emigration is a proof of poverty.

LEICESTER has a styptic spring at NEVIL HOLT, near MARKET HARBOROUGH, and a petrifying spring in the neighbourhood of LUTTERWORTH; but they are not fashionable, and therefore of course but little known.

I left NORTHAMPTON for LEICESTER on Friday, March the 29th. The country had nothing in it for the eye of a painter, but every thing for the contemplation of a patriot. The smiling abundance spoke every where the wealth, the grandeur, and the opulence of the nation. HARBOROUGH is the first post town. There is nothing very attractive in it; and, indeed, LEICESTERSHIRE consisting of so many farms, is richer in its villages than in its towns. HARBOROUGH stands in a fine

open country; it is eighty-four miles west by north of LONDON, eighteen north of NORTHAMPTON, and sixteen south of LEICESTER. It is a great thoroughfare, and therefore lively; but the inns are very indifferent in comparison with those of SITTINGBOURNE and many other post towns. Perhaps this is the only town in ENGLAND that has no right of common; for it has neither field nor meadow land belonging to it; a proof that the farmers and landlords too make the most of their possessions. This circumstance has given birth to a proverb among the inhabitants, that a goose may eat up all the grass in HARBOROUGH, and children are threatened with being thrown into HARBOROUGH field.

LEICESTER is a clean handsome town; but, were it not so great a thoroughfare, and had it not so large a market, it would be dull and wearisome, being composed, like NOTTINGHAM, of stocking-weavers and wool-combers; but I shall go into this and other particulars relative to LEICESTER hereafter, and shall therefore only say at present, that I set out on Sunday the thirty-first for DERBY, and arrived there, after a most charming ride by the way of LOUGHBOROUGH, which, for situation and sprightliness, is the prettiess town in LEICESTERSHIRE.

DERBYSHIRE, which takes its name from the county town, and the county from the river Derwent, spelt by the Saxons Deorbi, is full of objects worthy the attention of a curious traveller, a minute description of which I am, however, compelled to pass over at present. Hereafter, when I shall shew that I took some pains to make myself master of the subject, I shall have a pleasure in entering on it more minutely.

DERBYSHIRE is an inland county, bounded on the north by YORKSHIRE, on the east by NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, on the south by LEICESTERSHIRE, and on the west by STAFFORDSHIRE and CHESHIRE. It is fifty-six miles in length from the village of STRATTON, on the borders of LEICESTERSHIRE, to the northern extremity of the Peak, and thirty-eight where broadest, but only nine where narrowest, and has a circumference of a hundred and sixty miles. It lies in the province of YORK and diocese of LITCHFIELD and COVENTRY; contains six hundreds, eleven market towns, a hundred and six parishes, and sends four members to parliament.

The principal rivers are the Dove, the Derwent, the Irwish, and the Crawlow. The Dove is famous for a fish called Grayling, which is also caught in some parts of SHROPSHIRE. It seems to partake of the trout and the char, and yet it is in its form and colour different from either. The current is thought to pass through lime-stone, which is supposed to render the water of an extraordinary fertilizing quality, by which the meadows are greatly enriched whenever the river overflows; and from this Nile-like quality has come a pithy but awkward proverb: In April, Dove's flood is worth a king's good. It rises in the north-west part of the county, and passes south to ASHBORN; it then turns a little more to the west, and, passing by UTTOXETER, falls at length into the Trent, four miles above BURTON. It is remarkable that this river swells so much in twelve hours time, that it has carried off sheep and other cattle before assistance could be procured; but it soon returns as suddenly into its own channel. COTTON has celebrated the Dove in his poem on the Wonders of the Peak. It is what may be called a genteel work: the theme deserves a better poet.

The Derwent, which is dusky, owing to the soil through which it passes, rises in the most northern part of the county, and passes south-west on to DERBY, without receiving any considerable river. About seven miles below DERBY it falls into the Trent. The Irwish divides part of DERBYSHIRE from NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, and rises about four miles south-west of MARSFIELD. It passes by no remarkable place, and falls into the Trent about eleven miles east south-east of DERBY. The Crawlow waters the northern parts of the county; but I find no account of its rise and termination.

Except on the banks of the river Derwent, which divides the eastern and western parts of the county, the air and the soil differ very materially. Immediately on the banks the land is singularly fertile. In the eastern division it is also agreeable and healthy, and the soil, which is every where fruitful, and every where cultivated, produces all sorts of grain in abundance. The southern part of the county also partakes of this agreeable temperature and fertility; but, in the more northern parts of the westward division, the air is in general more sharp, the weather more variable, and storms of wind and rain are very frequent.

The face of the country is rude and mountainous, and the soil, except in the vallies, is rocky and barren. The hills nevertheless, afford pasture for sheep, and, though their flesh is not so well calculated to please the appetite of the epicure as that of the sheep pampered in LEICESTERSHIRE, it has a sweetness and, a delicacy of flavour more acceptable to those whose appetites are whetted by exercise.

A further account of that part of the country would impel me to a description of the Peak, which is not in my intention at present. I shall therefore say that I left DERBY, which I shall also hereafter more minutely describe, on Tuesday, April the second; and, after dining at a most miserable inn at UTTOXETER, reached NEWCASTLE UNDER-LINE in the evening. It must be confessed, that if I had not been able to avail myself of other opportunities, I should not have had it in my power to have done justice to this part of the kingdom, for perhaps never was there so backward a spring, indeed a spring so much resembling mid-winter, as that of 1799. The coldest day that had been felt for several years, by the calculation of several gentlemen I conversed with at LEICESTER, was on the 30th of March, and this weather continued, accompanied with frost and snow for a month, so that when I came to see the mountains in WESTMORELAND, for the quantity of snow hanging to them, I might have fancied them the Alps. This aspect was still encreassd when I came to look at BEN LOMOND; nor was it much lessened the latter end of May, as I passed the Cheviot hills.

Of STAFFORDSHIRE, a most extraordinary county, I am enabled to give no more than a very few particulars; those few, however cannot but be in some degree curious. This county is bounded on the north-west by CHESHIRE, on the north-east by DERBYSHIRE, on the south and south-east by LEICESTERSHIRE, WARWICKSHIRE, and WORCESTERSHIRE, and on the west by SHROPSHIRE. It extends forty miles from north to south, twenty-six from east to west, and includes a circumference of about a hundred and forty three. STAFFORD, the county town, is nearly in the centre of the kingdom, and is situated a hundred and thirty-five miles north-west of LONDON.

This county is in the province of CANTERBURY, and diocese of LITCHFIELD and COVENTRY. It is divided into five hundreds, contains the City of LITCHFIELD and seventeen market towns, a hundred and fifty parishes, and sends ten members to parliament. It would take a volume to enumerate the Roman and other antiquities which are spoken of as discovered in this county; probably not more attributable to that, however, than to many other places, but more likely to have been discovered in consequence of perpetually digging for that potters' clay, which has employed the talents of so many ingenious men, and so beautifully decorated the tables of the first families in Europe.

The principal rivers of this county are the Trent, the Dove, the Penke, the Tame, the Sow, and the Charnet. The Trent is generally supposed to derive its name from the circumstance of its proceeding from three springs, the principal of which rises about a mile south of RUSTON-JAMES, near LEEK, from whence it runs to the south as far as BUCKNALL, where it turns a little towards the west to TRENTHAM. It then declines towards the south-east passing by RUDGELEY, where it turns almost directly east, and passes as far as WICHNOR, where it receives the Tame. After this, it turns north-east by BURTON-UPON-TRENT, and, about two miles beyond that town, enters DERBYSHIRE, and going on north-east through the County of DERBY, and across NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, it turns north, and, having washed the eastern side of the last mentioned county, at length passes through a part of LINCOLNSHIRE, and falls into the Humber.

The course of the Dove we have already seen; the Penke rises at FEATHERSTONE, and, passing by PENKRIDGE, falls into the Sow, at STAFFORD. The Tame rises near WOLVERHAMPTON, and, running south-east, passes into WARWICKSHIRE, where, directing its course northward, it re-enters STAFFORDSHIRE to the south of TAMWORTH, and, continuing north of that town, falls into the Trent near WICHNOR, The Sow rises to the westward of NEWCASTLE, and, running south-west, passes by STAFFORD, and then receiving the Penke, soon falls into the Trent at SHUTBOROUGH. The Charnet has its sourse near the head of the Trent, and running south-west falls into the Dove. The rivers indeed of this county are so numerous, that they are said to amount to twenty-four, besides a multitude of rivulets and small brooks. Some of these fertilize the meadows, by sometimes laying them under water, particularly the branches of the Dove.

But there are also meres and lakes in this county, one of which is more than a mile in length. They have all of them either rivulets that pass through them, or are fed with springs, and they abound with great plenty and variety of fish, which are exceedingly good, because they are naturally very healthy; for, being in perpetual motion, these lakes are as free from exhalations as the rivers themselves. There are subterraneous passages, which receive the waters, that during violent rains pour from the hills. They have also several salt springs, as they are called, from the water acquiring a saltness from some saline mineral over which they pass. They bring away the particles, however, in great abundance, for an officer is appointed to take care of the duties upon the salt which they produce, which is said to vie with that of DROITWICH. There are three mineral springs in STAFFORDSHIRE, the virtues of which are little known. Fashion, with all its caprice, has not yet taken a whim to establish itself in a pottery.

The County of STAFFORD is divided into moorlands and woodlands. The moorlands are contained between the Trent and the Dove, and extend from the north point of the county to DRAYCOT. They yield copper, lead, rance marble, and milstone. The woodlands are in the southern and level part of the county, and produce salt, black marble, and alabaster; but the timber has not for many years been so supplied with a new stock as it was formerly. Turf and peat are plentiful, which they use both for fuel and manure.

STAFFORDSHIRE produces four or five sorts of marle. Tobacco-pipe clay is also found all over the county, and, at AMBLECOT, they have a clay of a dark bluish colour, of which are made the best pots for glass-houses of any in ENGLAND. The potters clay is more valuable there than any where else, particularly that found near BURSLEM, and indeed every where in the neighbourhood of NEWCASTLE. Several earths for colouring are also found in great perfection, particular yellow and red oker. They have a blue clay at DARLASTON, which makes an excellent ash colour for the use of glovers. There are also some good sorts of black and red chalk.

The pit coal in STAFFORDSHIRE is of a superior kind, the cannal and the peacock coal in particular; the first is very hard, very black, and of a close texture, as may be seen in the cathedral church of LITCHFIELD, where great part of the choir is paved with cannal coal and alabaster alternately, and bears an appearance very little inferior to black and white marble. This coal was at one time shaped into snuff-boxes, candlesticks, and other articles: but the curiosity is extinct, or they have something better to do with their time, for I could not get any thing of this kind when I was there, nor even at WIGAN in LANCASHIRE, a place formerly famous for retailing these articles.

The ores in this county are principally of a stoney nature. There are several kinds of iron stone, which differ in goodness, and have names according to the qualities of the metal. As the obtaining this ore has something curious in it, I shall go beyond my usual rule by shortly describing its process. When the ore is procured, they burn or calcine it with small charcoal, wood, or pit coal, in order to break the stones into small pieces, and so fit it for the furnace, which takes three days. While this is going forward they heat the furnace, and, having continued to do so for a week, they throw baskets of ore and baskets of charcoal into the furnace alternately, and by means of two very large pair of bellows behind the furnace, render the fire so intensely hot, that in three days time the metal begins to run, and in about a fortnight they can run what it is called a sow and twelve pigs into a bed of sand once in twelve hours. The sow is next to the furnace, and from it they draw upwards of twenty furrows for the pigs. The sow and pigs, when broken asunder and cut into proper lengths, are brought to the forges, and wrought into bars by hammers of a prodigious size, raised by the motion of a water wheel; bars that are to be cut into rods are carried to the slitting-mills, where they are shortened, and, being made red hot, they are drawn into lengths by the rollers; after this they are put through the cutters, which are of different sizes, and by these they are slit, and then, being cold, they are bound up for sale.

Among the iron ore, are found stones that within resemble a honeycomb, and these constantly contain a liquor of a sweet taste, which the workmen are fond

of drinking. If it be true, as Dr. PLOT informs us, that this liquid is only the matter of iron ore, and not coagulated with a metallic form, what shall we say of the ostrich-like stomachs of these workmen? Copper ores have been discovered in STAFFORDSHIRE, and silver, but in very inconsiderable quantities. Curious crystals, and great varieties of stones are also found and used for many purposes; some of these have in them the shapes of different animal and vegetable objects, which are supposed, therefore, to be petrefactions.

Urged on by discoveries of this description, Dr. PLOT fancies the position clearly established, that rocks grow; and instances a discovery he made of a man's scull enclosed in a solid block of stone, at a place called GOLLOWS, or GALLOWS-TREE, near NEWCASTLE, and he accounts for this phenomenon, by supposing that this man to whom the scull belonged, had been hanged there and buried under the gallows, and that the rock, which was at that time sandy land, became gradually hard, and enclosed it in that curious manner. Without enquiring what became of the rest of the skeleton, which at this rate ought also to have been perfect, is it not natural to ask how it came, that in the prodigious length of time necessary for living loose sand to grow into an impenetrable stone? the caput mortuum had not been crushed and pulverized into invisibility. Perhaps the doctor had been contemplating the beauty of the serenites, or moon-stone, which is found in the marle pits near HARTLEY-GREEN, and so called from its property, of reflecting the moon, and sometimes the sun; and yet if he had, it is not improbable, according to the consistency of the other remarks, that he might have recommended it to sailors to take observations by way of an improvement of the quadrant.

This county is skirted towards DERBYSHIRE with mountains, one of which, called NARROWDALE, not entirely from its height, for there are many mountains in ENGLAND much higher, but from its situation, deprives the inhabitants for three months in winter of the light of the sun; and, when that luminary begins again to appear, they call it Narrowdale noon. The rest of the county is generally pretty level. The pasturage is very fine and rich, and the cattle are very large and healthy.

On Tuesday, April the second, I left DERBY, dined at UTTOXETER, and supped at NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LINE. This town is surrounded by the potteries, which are carried on at BURSLEM, CHESTERTON, TRENTHAM, and some other places. It includes a little world, like the villages about COALBROOK-DALE, and those in the vicinity of MANCHESTER in the road from HALLIFAX; and the prodigious numbers of work-people, from children of five years old to men and women of ninety, for it is remarked of STAFFORDSHIRE that they have three christenings to one burial, line the manufacturing houses from top to bottom.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LINE, or LIME, so called from its lying near a branch of the Trent which has that appellation, has nothing particularly worthy of attention, but that, being in the centre of the manufactures, it is of course, rich and opulent. The inhabitants are shrewd and hospitable, but the atmosphere of those parts, thickened perhaps by the fuliginous fumes arising from the different works, seems to preclude that vitality which leads to fashion and frivolity, to the lessening perhaps of their taste, but the augmentation certainly of their happiness.

My accounts of places in this county must be as brief as possible. LITCHFIELD, which place has been as well celebrated by FARQUHAR as by any author, for it is exactly that vapid sort of city, where the lower kind of people drink ale, and the more fashionable attend the cathedral, play at cards, and talk scandal, keeps to the idea of its ancient name for LICIDFELD, its British name, signifies a field of carcasses. The city and the close, that is to say, the laiety and the clergy, are separated by an arm of the Trent, which flows in a beautiful direction through this fertile country. The cathedral is ancient, and exhibits different improvements, if they may be called so, according to its changes, for it was originally an archiepiscopal see, afterwards rendered subject to the metropolitan see of CANTERBURY, and at length translated to COVENTRY, rather a forlorn idea; though some historians are of opinion that the present cathedral was entirely built in 1140, by ROGER DE CLINTON, on the ruins of the old. I shall leave the decision to antiquarians, and only notice that it is a mixture of the ancient and the modern, and contains many objects of beauty and symmetry for those who are contented with that proportion rationally excited, as well as others attractive to eyes

eyes that delight in every thing uncouth, upon the principle that true florists admire ugly tulips.

Eight miles from LITCHFIELD is TAMWORTH, which is so equally divided by the river Tame, that one half stands in STAFFORDSHIRE, and the other half in WARWICKSHIRE, and thus one representative in parliament is chosen in each county, the honour of both is however generally given to STAFFORDSHIRE. WICHNOR, or WICHENOR, famous for its flitch of bacon charter, like DUNMOW in ESSEX, is about five miles from LITCHFIELD; BURTON upon TRENT is five miles further. It lies on the most eastern part of the county next to DERBYSHIRE. It has a very large and handsome bridge, and is famous for ale, as the topers and cribbage-players, at the Peacock in GRAY'S-INN-LANE could formerly testify.

Four miles north by west of BURTON is TUTBURY, situated on a bank of the river Dove. This place is famous for a castle formerly inhabited by the royal Dukes of LANCASTER. It commands a most extensive view over a beautiful county, and at present belongs to the CAVENDISH family, the Duke of DEVONSHIRE being the lord of it. At this castle, when the Dukes and Earls of LANCASTER resided there, who were remarkable for the encouragement of music, musicians of all descriptions were permitted to come for the purpose of exhibiting trials of skill. These were at length so very numerous, that quarrels arose, and it was thought necessary to appoint a governor to keep them in subjection. The particulars of the disputes I have given pretty diffusively in my *History of the Stage*, which did not end till, as a final regulation, JOHN of GAUNT, gave a charter to the governor of the castle, who was thenceforward called King of the Minstrels. It is an eternal reproach to these sons of harmony, that they should have so degenerated as to have been the inventors of bull-baiting.

UTTOXETER, which is an ugly squalid place, might have been as handsome as BLANDFORD, or TIVERTON, if the inhabitants had taken the same advantage of their misfortunes; but, having been like those towns burnt down, they unluckily forgot to build it up, and therefore it is made up of incongruous parcels. I never dined in such a filthy inn in my life, as at UTTOXETER, and as to understanding or

intelligence, Dr. Johnson, who was born there, seems to have run away with the intellects of the whole place. The neighbourhood is famous for its iron works.

Leek, is situated in the Moorlands. At this town there is a manufacture of buttons. About seven miles from this place are the copper mines belonging to the Duke of Devonshire. These were but little known till they were passed over by a Cornish miner, who happened about sixty years ago accidentally to be in Staffordshire. Upon the credit of this man's report they were explored at a great expence, and at length found to be very productive. Travellers, who have the curiosity to visit them, are well repaid for their trouble by the variety of extraordinary objects that present themselves, the most interesting however of which are the prodigious numbers of men, women and children, who extract a comfortable subsistence from the bowels of their common mother.

To take a view of Staffordshire on the other side of Newcastle, we come to Stone, a place seated on the river Trent. It is a convenient post town in the road to Chester. Here many curious things are related of Saxon princes and warriors and the names of Wolphere, Wolfaldus, Rufinus, and others are called in to prove the existence of buildings, which are now exterminated, and battles of which there are no traces; but, as all these rest upon no better authority than an old writing, said to have been discovered by one Erdeswick, of which nobody now can produce any account, my readers will give as much attention to this string of uncertainties as they find convenient.

Eccleshall is a small neat town, famous for pedlar's ware, and the seat of the bishop of Litchfield and Coventry. Stafford is a place distinguished by a custom of a very extraordinary nature. It is called borough English, by which if the father dies intestate, the youngest son inherits the lands lying within the liberties of the town. There was lately a trial upon these merits gone over before Sir Nash Grose, at which time the gavel kind in Kent, which I have already explained, was quoted as a proof that those ancient customs should be considered as sacred. Equity, however, ought clearly to be held paramount to all customs of so strained and perverted a nature; but there are many extraordinary things done

in the borough way in other places as well as STAFFORD. As to this particular custom which completely contradicts the good sense of our laws, instead of its present name it ought to be called borough Irish.

STAFFORD is a clean, handsome, dull town. It resembles in these particulars DONCASTER. It has a handsome bridge, a handsome market-place, a handsome town-hall, and a handsome jail. It is full of meeting-houses, and it swarms with dissenters. SHUTBOROUGH, about three miles from STAFFORD, is remarkable for a horse-bridge over the river Trent, supported by forty arches, and which is said to be the largest in ENGLAND, which is another touch of the STAFFORDSHIRE Irish; for, though it is longer than any other, it is impossible it should be larger, taking in all its dimensions, for it is only wide enough for a horse to pass over it.

WOLVERHAMPTON is thirty-two miles north of WORCESTER, and a hundred and thirty-four north west of LONDON. The addition to its name which was originally HAMPTON, was taken from WULFRUNA, widow of ANTHELM, and sister to King EDGAR, who built a priory here in 996, and thence it was called WULFRUNA'S HAMPTON, which has settled into its present name. Her holy work, however, availed but little, for the monks got so abominably wicked and licentious, that she applied to the Pope to expel them, who, however, was deaf to her prayer. In addition to the great variety of manufactures in the iron way carried on here, this place being an offset from BIRMINGHAM, exactly as STOCKPORT is from MANCHESTER, they were at one time more famous for locks than any town in the kingdom. It is a large populous place, and from my own experience when I visited it fourteen years ago, there is much more social generosity among the inhabitants than is customarily found in mere manufacturing towns. With a short account of the botanical productions in STAFFORDSHIRE, and remarkable characters, born in that county, I shall finish this letter.

As the mountainous parts of STAFFORDSHIRE produce exactly the same plants as those to be found on the Peak of DERBYSHIRE, and the more level parts the same as are common to WARWICKSHIRE, I shall reserve an account of them till my description of those counties, and only notice such as appear to be natives

as they are called, a circumstance in my idea upon these occasions, very disputable, though after all not very material. The female or yellow-leaved fir-tree, *abies*, grows wild and very large. The pear like service tree, *sorbus pyriformis.* The wood of the wild service tree is very much recommended for wheelwrights for being all heart, and it is excellent to make tools for husbandry, such as goads, &c. Some of the service trees have medical virtues, but I rather think this is not one of them. It grows in the moorlands. White berried elder, *sambucus fructu albo.* This is a rare plant; red and green berries are common: I find no distinction of quality in any of them. This plant is found in the hedges near the village of CAMBRIDGE. The lesser sea star wort, *tripolium minus vulgare.* This is only a variety of that multitudinous tribe under that general title. It has no particular virtues that I can discover.

As to celebrated men this county boasts its share. ASHMOLE, a philosopher, chymist and antiquary of the seventeenth century, and founder of that noble museum at OXFORD which bears his name, was born at LITCHFIELD. He had a strong understanding, and was extensively informed, too extensively indeed, for he fancied more than he saw, and attached himself closely to hermetic philosophy, and a belief of the reality and virtues of the philosopher's stone. Bishop SMALLRIDGE, a good writer, and a pious character, was also born at LITCHFIELD. He was the son of a dyer. His promotion was entirely owing to his own native merit, and he filled his different situations with the highest reputation. ALLEN, the celebrated mathematician, was born at UTTOXETER, in 1542. He shared the fate of Friar BACON, and was represented by the ignorant and vulgar as a sorcerer and a magician and in this capacity it is most ridiculously alledged that he was employed by the celebrated Earl of LEICESTER, to practice on the affections of Queen ELIZABETH. His manuscripts are in the Bodleian library.

Cardinal POLE, who was sent abroad by his kinsman, HENRY the Eighth, and afterwards stript of all his honours by the same king, who twice refused to be Pope, who acted a principal character in MARY's tragedies; and, who, as if born for her use, died a few hours after that bigotted and sanguinary queen, was born at STOVERTON CASTLE in STAFFORDSHIRE. WOOLASTON, a learned and ingenious writer,

was a native of COTON CLANFIELD. FENTON, celebrated for his merit, his being continually made a cat's paw, and for his epitaph written by POPE, was descended from an ancient family, and born at SKELTON near NEWCASTLE.

SAMUEL JOHNSON, the divine, and SAMUEL JOHNSON, the lexicographer, were both born in STAFFORDSHIRE. They were equally self-willed and equally turbulent; but nothing can be more different than were the fortunes of the two men. One exposed himself to the resentment of the court and the people by his unqualified assertions and writings, was put in the pillory, attempted to be assassinated, and underwent a variety of punishments and humiliations; the other, for writings and assertions equally unqualified, was caressed like a spoilt child, feared, courted, and rewarded with a pension. With two characters as singular in another way, I shall finish my acconnt of STAFFORDSHIRE. JAMES SANDS, born at HORBURNE, who died at the age of a hundred and forty; and MARY WOODWARD, born at HARDWICK, who had so studied the motion of the lips that she could converse with the utmost facility though she had for many years totally lost her hearing.

Leicester-Place, Yours most truly,

July 12, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

	Burton	Cheadle	Dudley	Eccleshall	Leek	Litchfield	Newcastle	Penkridge	Stafford	Stone	Tamworth	Uttoxeter	Wolverhampton	London
Mon. Bromley to	10	17	37	21	45	11	33	17	14	16	18	7	26	129
Thurs. Burton to		27	29	29	43	11	38	21	22	25	15	15	26	124
Sat. Cheadle to			30	30	10	26	10	26	20	16	35	10	43	146
Sat. Dudley to				28	43	16	36	22	21	38	20	34	5	120
Fri. Eccleshall to					21	24	12	13	7	12	31	10	23	142
Wed. Leek to						31	12	37	23	21	50	20	47	156
* † Tu. & Fri. Litchfield to							31	10	17	42	8	17	15	118
* † Mon. Newcastle to								22	16	8	39	18	32	148
Tu. Penkridge to									6	16	17	21	10	130
* † Sat. Stafford to										10	24	15	16	136
Tu. Stone to											28	12	22	140
† Sat. Tamworth to												25	22	114
Wed. Uttoxeter to													31	136
Wed. Wolverhampton to														124

A table of distances in STAFFORDSHIRE. Corporation Towns, governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *; boroughs thus †; the market towns have the initials of the days placed against them.

The two members for the county make, allowing two for TAMWORTH, which, to prevent confusion, are placed in the account of this county, ten.

LETTER XXXI.

WATERING PLACES.

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

In conformity to my avowed principle of going generally into such subjects as may immediately or collaterally call on me for animadversion in the course of this work, I shall now take up a theme on which I may be permitted to be pretty diffusive; for it goes to no less than an examination into the abuses of those prominent blessings of life, health, and property.

You will not wonder, after the above declaration, that in this letter I mean to treat of what are called WATERING PLACES. You will, however, probably be inclined to ask why I address this letter to you, rather than to some medical friend: but the answer is obvious. I have, in obedience to strict propriety, bound myself by a determination to exact no remark or opinion from my friends which might involve them in any risk of pledging themselves to support my sentiments, and there is besides an awkwardness in committing any man professionally. Putting these objections, however, out of the case, I see nothing in the question, even considered medically, so profound but that any man of strong sense may come at the bottom of it; and, as to the health of the purse, if the patient be properly apprized of its danger, and will not administer to himself, he must not be astonished if it should die of a decline.

All situations rendered favourable by chance or design for bathing, or endowed by nature or art with springs of peculiar qualities, are called watering places. It does not signify whether the miraculous discovery was made by a royal pig-driver, as at BATH, a wandering leper, as at EPSOM, a headless virgin restored to life by a hermit, as at Holy Well, in WALES, or by whatever other wonderful and extraordinary means; it is enough to say, that the cures they perform, after the faculty have given over the patients, are reported to be numerous and astonishing. I informed you in one of my letters that I accustomed myself to converse in FRANCE on the subject of ENGLAND. In a convent of LES CHARTREUX, a kind of cion from the order of LA TRAPPE, which I shall hereafter describe at some length, I frequently entered into discourse with the monks, who were composed in general of disappointed courtiers, disgusted with the world. They were keen distinguishing men, and fond of irony. Talking one day about BATH, "I have heard," said one, "that the waters of that place possess very extraordinary qualities, and that, indeed, in some cases they operate miracles, particularly in favour of the ladies, for there have been instances of their curing barrenness, even in the absence of the husband."

Leaving the probability of the Frenchman's sly remark with you and my readers, I shall proceed to examine how far watering places are a particular, and how far a general benefit to society; the first head of which text will be, I fancy, more than I shall be able to go into in the compass of this letter.

I shall first consider those baths, which have been well defined receptacles of water for persons to plunge in either for health or pleasure. These may be natural or artificial, which designation extends also to Spas; and, unfortunately for the advocates of springs and minerals, art has in various instances, through the medium of chemical improvements, become more efficacious than nature.

Natural hot baths owe their origin to a number of adventitious circumstances; sometimes to the admixture of sulphurious particles, during the action of the water as it passes through its subterraneous canals; sometimes to the fumes and vapours exhaling through the pores of the earth where sulphur happens to be

deposited, and sometimes to a combination of these accidental circumstances, with qualities that exude from iron, alum, nitre, and other mineral bodies.*

These, without contradiction, have a very salutary disposition as far as they go; but the chemist has gone a great way beyond this. Metalline baths, which are made of waters, impregnated with scoriæ of metals, and which abound according to circumstances, and vary according to necessity, with earthy, saline, and sulphurous substances, have been found of infinite use. The slag procured at the smelting-houses, particularly that from copper, antimony, and cobalt, which are full of sulphur and vitriolic salt, has done wonders. The pepper bath on the ALPS has been successfully imitated, and it is not two years ago that, to my knowledge, a gentleman had the use of his limbs restored by a mustard bath.

If we go further, and put aqueous baths out of the question, we may fairly reverse SHAKESPEAR'S observation, and say that art is above nature in these respects, for we shall then take in all the vaporous and dry baths from the sudatories of the ancients to those in the LONDON bagnios; again, if we extend the idea further, and plunge into those kind of balloon baths with which the perfection of pneumatic chemistry has furnished us, what a triumph for art! But my case is strong enough without this auxiliary evidence, and it is sometimes wrong, and always suspicious, to prove too much.

* To these general opinions I certainly might state objections, by insisting, which I should not hesitate to do, were it not that long established authorities are difficult to overcome, that warm baths of all descriptions are no better, and indeed no more, than common warm water, that is to say, water boiled under ground, by means of partial volcanos, in receptacles where it happens to lodge, exactly as a kettle, or rather a pipkin, is boiled over a fire, which is neither a ludicrous nor an imaginary idea, and I give the following reason to prove it. Water cannot, by any process but boiling, retain the same heat in all weathers. Boiling water at Christmas is boiling water at Midsummer, which becomes gradually cooler, being poured out, according to the length of time it has escaped from the vehicle wherein it has been in that state of ebulition; and this reasoning is most clearly verified by noticing that, in the KING'S bath, the water is extremely hot, in the hot bath something cooler, and in the cross bath still more temperate, and this not partially, or at any particular time, but constantly and at all times. I will not indulge myself in any thing that might be construed as invidious, otherwise it might be arch enough to suggest that the physicians know this fact, and are solicitous to use what art they can to keep it back, lest their lady-patients should content themselves by staying at home, and using what is called a nun's bath, which is no more than tempering the heat, according to the degree prescribed, by holding a kettle of boiling water in one hand, and a thermometer in the other.

It is unnecessary to say that vaponr baths are a diffusion of the fume or stream of some decoction, received upon the body to promote perspiration; for my own part, I know this fact practically. I was once hemmed in among a crowd at LIVERPOOL Guildhall, to which place curiosity had led me, and found myself, before I could make my escape, in a complete bath, by inhaling the steam of vinegar, which profusely spread itself throughout the place, in the nature of a quarantine precaution, lest infection should be imbibed during the examination of the Irish paupers, who were waiting for passports for IRELAND, after they had been making hay in ENGLAND.

As to dry baths, they are in the nature of our hot-houses, in which, though you do not die of a rose in aromatic pain, you are affected upon the same principle, especially if the qualities not very delicately attributed to perfumes are true. These baths are made of ashes, salt, shreds of leather, horse dung, and other materials. Some patients have been covered with this last article,* and something like a jacket made of turf has been lapped round others, a practice, as we are told, still used in NEW ENGLAND; so that Dr. GRAHAM, in his earth bath project, had precedent at least on his side.

There are other baths that have various and extraordinary properties. Ice baths, for example, which, by impeding the circulation, stop hemorrhages; and broth baths, that, by infusing nutriment through the pores, bid defiance to a locked jaw. There are others that operate upon the fancy and relieve the nerves, just as a lady is suddenly told that her husband is dead, or that she has got a prize in the lottery, to cure the hiccups; or as you are bid to think of a cuckold when you want to hit any particular joint. Baths that have this operation can do no possible harm, for they amuse at least, and amusement is almost an indication of health. I shall only give one instance, but it is a strong one. It is the laughing bath at BRISTOL, an ingenious and a delightful invention. It is a kind of inverted Cave of

* These baths in particular were in great repute among the ancients. HERACLITUS is said to have died in one of them, into which he had been immersed for the dropsy, according to some; but others inform us, that the dogs seeing him in that situation, took him for some strange beast and devoured him.

TROPHONIUS; for, as in the latter, people went in merry and came out sad, so, in the former, they go in sad, and come out merry, which is an invention the more ingenious, because the proverb advises us to laugh and be fat, and most of BRISTOL patients are afflicted with consumptive cases.

As to cold baths. they are easily in our power. Any confectioner can procure ice for you all the year round. Is not sal ammoniac to be had of every druggist? and does not Mrs. GLASSE give you a receipt to make ice creams before the kitchen fire upon Midsummer day? Thus may every kind of receptacle for bathers then be furnished by art, except sea baths. I see no reason, however, for despair, even upon this subject. We have already had salt water conveyed in ship loads from Gravesend to the Strand, and I should not be astonished, now that the duty on salt is taken off, to see a pompous advertisement, setting forth the wonderful cures about to be performed at some *Balneum Marinum* newly erected in a conspicuous part of the metropolis.

Having shewn how baths may be imitated, let us now examine into their utility; and, since we are upon the subject of sea baths, it may not be amiss to observe, that no substantial reason has been yet advanced to prove they possess superior qualities to any other water appropriated to the purpose of ablution. I know very well that a great deal has been said about smooth sands and bold shores, and the positive necessity of immersing the patient till the saline quality of this fluid has been as much as possible imbibed, as if the sea bather was infected with canine madness. I know also that, in these arguments, every medical advocate has very naturally recommended his own place of residence. I know that, because some time ago SOUTHAMPTON was filled with visitors to the very garrets, the river of that place was treated with ineffable contempt, and called a branch, an arm, nay, a finger of the sea, by way of shewing the comparative advantages of BRIGHTHELMSTONE, which not only has a commanding view of the ocean, but which, by having no shelter, receives the mid-day sun in July with double fervency by the reflection from the dancing waves; so that the bather may have the advantage of being plunged in hissing hot, like FALSTAFF in the buck basket; but these arguments won't pass; they are local; they smell of the

shop, like the story of the methodist; who, being asked why he did not groan, replied, with great simplicity, "because I belong to another tabernacle."

In examining mineral waters, which I neither could do, nor would I, were it in my power, by analysis, I shall only say that this word mineral has quite enough of the empyric in it to imply imposition, and that there are as many thousand distinctions of quality in water as there are gradations in a colour, or sums in figures. First of all, we have only the opinion of NEWTON, and the evidence of our senses to prove that water is a fluid. Some very learned men subtilize it into air, and others congeal it into ice; from all which one might infer, that nature out of pity has done violence to her own ordinations by keeping it almost constantly in all parts of the world in that middle state, unnatural as it is said to be, from which alone all the animals upon the face of creation can reap any benefit from it.

In one thing, however, they all agree, which is, that there is no such thing in nature as pure water; for, if it could be procured instantly from the clouds, it would be filled with exhalations imbibed from the air, but when suffered to drip from houses, the salts and other qualities from mortar, tiles, iron, lead, the ordure of birds, and innumerable other extraneous things, completely sophisticate its native purity; and it is in vain, try how you may, to percolate it; for, be the body sand, pummice stone, or whatever else, still will a fœces and a salt remain, besides myriads of animalculæ and all their spawn.

By the way, this idea of rain water poured over the roofs of houses is no bad hint for a new spa; for the tiles might be clogged with certain obstructions composed of such substances as would give it peculiar qualities to the taste of the physician, however it might nauseate his patients, and thus tubs and cisterns might teem with SELTZER, CHELTENHAM, and HARROWGATE waters. The French are the best at this: if they want a chalybeate, a large *boule* of *Acier fondu* is produced from the pocket, which is heated in the fire, and soused into a bason of cold water, exactly in the manner of quenching a red hot poker in a pot of porter.

Snow water is said to be the purest we can get, which is, I suppose, the reason that it make fritters so light; but this sort one should conceive would hardly be recommended by any but those who find beauty in deformity, for it is very well known, that towards the ALPS it produces swelled throats, or what they call gouestres, and thins the voice to what Dr. BURNEY calls a thread. At the same time, however, it cannot be denied, so powerful is prejudice, that there the lump is thought beautiful, and the squeak melifluous.

River water, which is the sort in general use, is less to be depended upon than any other, for the different qualities of those beds of earth over which it runs, not only affect it locally, but the locality is perpetually changing through the influence of the current, the weather, and the seasons. The New River water, which comes into our houses, will to-day perhaps be soft, and to-morrow curdle soap. Thames water in its qualities, is said to be the best exception to this variable property, for it purifies itself, and is therefore used for long voyages at sea; but, when we take in the consideration of its conveyance by means of steam engines through pipes laid down under the streets, in the neighbourhoods of common sewers, and all their collateral effluvia, and also the dirty cisterns and water tubs into which it is received, accompanied by blacks from chimnies and fuliginous exhalations from kitchens and wash-houses, nothing can be more certain, not only that we never get pure, but that we never get the same water.

Let us, nevertheless, be comforted. Perhaps it never was designed that we should drink pure water, for that we never can do so has been proved, which is pretty near the matter. BOERHAVE, who boasts of having refuted NEWTON on the liquidity of water, says, that he is convinced nobody ever saw a drop of pure water: I wonder if he includes the morning dew; but LA VOISIER seems to be of a different opinion, for he is satisfied that there is such a thing as pure water; being however obliged to confess that it is impracticable to get at it, for that in all waters, distil them how you may, there is always a sediment; he does not lay the blame upon the water, as the devil did because he could not swim, but on the vessels used for its distillation, from the pores of which, according to him, oozes the impurity.

My argument, therefore, for our consolation, comes to this: As, according to these learned disquisitions, we must for ever despair of drinking pure water, as the various mediums through which we obtain this versatile necessary of life, are calculated to render it gross and feculent, let us comfort ourselves with the reflection, that perhaps all this is for our good; for, since it is in the nature of spa-waters to be impregnated with hetrogeneous qualities, indeed it is their very essence, and since, on this account they are recommended by physicians as infallible and sovereign specifics, if we would be in perfect health, so we only contrive to discriminate as to the different degrees of impurity, the nastier we get our water the better.

I foresaw it would be impossible to get very far into this subject in the course of one letter. I shall, therefore, amuse myself with travelling through a part of LANCASHIRE with our friend KING, and I believe no man need wish for a more pleasant and entertaining companion; and hereafter among my general letters beg your further attention, while I resume my strictures on watering places.

Yours, my dear sir,

Leicester-Place, very truly,

July 29, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XXXII.

LANCASHIRE.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I NOW come to examine, in a preliminary way, the extensive, populous, and wealthy county called LANCASHIRE, which upon the map cuts a very considerable figure, even by the side of YORKSHIRE, and this assertion the number of manufacturing and maritime towns, headed by MANCHESTER and LIVERPOOL, will proudly bear out. It is the seat of commerce and the school of industry. It is equally a nursery for our manufactures and our navy, and widely circulates from its ports those commodities which are fabricated in the inland part of its situation.

LANCASHIRE is bounded on the north by CUMBERLAND and WESTMORELAND, on the east by YORKSHIRE, on the south by CHESHIRE, and on the west by the Irish sea. It extends fifty-seven miles in length from north to south, thirty-two in breadth from east to west, and is a hundred and seventy in circumference. It is divided into six hundreds, has twenty-seven market towns, but no city. It lies in the province of YORK and diocese of CHESTER. It contains only sixty-three parishes, but which are uncommonly large, and in addition there are a prodigious number of chapels, and it sends fourteen members to parliament.

The principal rivers in this county are the Mersey, the Ribble, the Wire, and the Lon. The Mersey rises in DERBYSHIRE, and running south-west, divides that county from LANCASHIRE, where being joined by a considerable stream called the Gout, which parts DERBYSHIRE from CHESHIRE, it continues on the borders of LANCASHIRE, and receiving the Taume, the Irwell, the Bollen, and sevaral other small rivers, it passes to WARRINGTON, and from thence running westward it falls into the Irish sea at LIVERPOOL.

The Ribble rises in YORKSHIRE, and flowing south-west enters LANCASHIRE at CLITHERO. In its course it is augmented by the great Calder, the Hodder, the Darwen, and the Savock, and dividing LANCASHIRE nearly into two parts, falls into the Irish sea near PRESTON. At its mouth it receives a large river formed by the conflux of the Charnock, the Dowgless and the Taud. The wire is drawn out by the Broke, the little Calder, and other small streams, and directing its course westward, discharges itself into the Irish sea about twelve miles north of the mouth of the Ribble. The Lon properly belongs to WESTMORELAND, I shall therefore speak of it in my description of that county.

These rivers abound with fish, particularly the Mersey. The smelts caught near WARRINGTON are the finest in the kingdom. Plaice and flounders are caught in the Ribble, and the Lon is celebrated for salmon, but by no means equal to that caught in the Severn, the Ouse near YORK, or Itchen Ferry, near SOUTHAMPTON. They have a large sort of muscles in the wire, which sometimes contain pearls. They are called Hambleton hookings, because they are drawn out with hooks. In a branch from the Mersey, called the Irk, the eels are so fat that they are unwholesome, it is imputed to the quantity of oil pressed out of the cloth, which is in large masses milled in this stream. The meers or lakes that touch LANCASHIRE will come more properly in my account of WESTMORELAND. The sea-coast of course abounds with fish of various descriptions; but they are not by any means so large in quantity, or so good in quality as those on the coast of CORNWALL.

There are several mineral springs in this county, of all which, according to custom, extraordinary things are related. The most celebrated are Maudlin's Well at LATHAM, near ORMSKIRK; Carlton water about ten miles from PRESTON; Cribble spa near BROUGHTON; Burnley waters, and that remarkable phenomenon near WIGAN, called the Burning well, the water of which is perfectly cold, and has no smell, yet so strong a vapour issues from it that upon applying a lighted candle to it, it will take fire, and the water be covered with a flame like that of spirits, which will continue burning a whole day, and emit so bright a heat that eggs and even flesh may be boiled over it, and yet the water being taken out of the well, it will not produce vapour enough to catch fire.

This fact is insisted upon, and by way of explanation we are told that the well is only a few yards distant from a rich coal mine, and that the inflammable vapour is unboubtedly a petrolium quite distinct from that of sulphur. I can only say, though I heard all this at WIGAN, I did not see the place, and therefore what I relate is simply upon report, to which I shall add that if it were not for the impossibility of giving the lie to a thing attested by so many witnesses, one should be apt to conclude that this is not the well in which we are commanded by the philosopher to believe that truth is to be found at the bottom. Five other springs are spoken of in LANCASHIRE as possessing extaordinary qualities.

Having described rivers and springs, I am sure I shall be excused if I give an account, though rather in detail, of the Duke of BRIDGEWATER's river or canal, which is perhaps the greatest artificial curiosity of its kind in the world. It is a subterranean channel, constructed for the purposes of conveying coals from the bottoms of the pits to MANCHESTER and other places. It begins at WORSLEY-MILL, about seven miles from MANCHESTER; where, at the foot of a large mountain, is a bason containing a prodigious body of water, which serves as a head to this navigation, and from this a passage is formed under the mountain, large enough for flat bottomed boats fifty feet long and four and a half wide to pass to the mines. In proceding through this passage, which is illuminated by candles, the boat is expedited on each hand by a rail for the space of a thousand yards, or nearly three quarters of a mile, before you come to the coal works. The passage

then divides, one branch continuing in a strait line three hundred yards further, and the other extending the same distance to the left. Hence those who explore both those passages, and return back to the head, will have gone a distance of almost three miles. The arching of the passages are either the rock or brick-work, according as the strata are fragile or solid.

At certain distances there are niches on the sides of the arch with funnels, or openings, through the rock to the top of the mountain, which are in some places thirty-seven yards perpendicular, in order to preserve a free circulation of fresh air, to prevent those damps and exhalations that are sometimes so destructive in works of this kind, and to let men down to work should any accident happen to the passage; and, as a counter precaution, at the entrance of the passage, and further on, there are gates to close up the arch, and prevent the admission of too much air in tempestuous weather. The arch is six feet wide at the entrance, but as it proceeds it enlarges, till at length boats can easily pass each other.

Coals are brought from the pits to this canal in little low waggons, that hold about a ton each; these, as the works are on the descent, are easily pushed forward by a man on a railed way to a stage over the canal, and then shot into one of the above-mentioned boats, each of which holds about eight tons. When the boats return loaded to the reservoir, five or six of them are linked together, and easily dragged by a horse or two mules to any direction to which the different branches of the canal point. Besides the narrow boats, fifty in number, a great many large boats are employed which hold fifty tons.

The canal that passes from the reservoir to MANCHESTER is handsome and durable, as well as the bridges which are thrown over it; but it is impossible sufficiently to admire the boldness and ingenuity of the work raised near BURTON bridge, to convey the canal over the river Mersey. It is done by three stone arches, so spacious and lofty that a vessel may easily pass through them; and, indeed, nothing can be more singularly striking than to see large vessels in full sail under the aqueduct, and at the same time the Duke of BRIDGEWATER's boats passing over them fifty feet above the navigable rivers.

The various uses to which the canal is converted, and which improve every day, are astonishing. It serves to drain the coal pits of the water which would otherwise obstruct the works; and, near the mouth of the subterranean passage, is an overshot mill, so admirably contrived as to work, by the force of the current, three pair of grindstones for corn, a dressing or bolting mill, and a machine for sifting sand and compounding mortar for the works carried on. The bolting mill is a great curiosity. It is made of wire of different sizes, and at the same time, and with the same effort, discharges the finest flour, the middling sort, the coarse, the pollard, and the bran, and all this is done without turning round, the work being performed and effected by brushes of hogs bristles within the wire. The mortar is made by a large stone disposed horizontally, and turned by a cog wheel underneath it. This stone, on which the mortar is laid, turns in its course two other stones which are placed upon it obliquely; and, by their weight and friction, work the mortar underneath, which is tempered and taken off by a workman.

LANCASHIRE has mines of copper, lead, iron, antimony, black lead, and lapis calaminaris; but while their looms and their mills yield them so much better employment, and while they can plough the ocean to so much greater advantage, I fancy they will never explore the bowels of the earth, except for coals to carry on their manufactures.

As it is proper that I should describe my tour progressively, I shall go back to NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LINE, and shew how I got from thence into LANCASHIRE. To do this, if it were not that the little I have to say of CHESHIRE will come more aptly in the second volume of this work, because I shall then be better able, on account of having paid it a subsequent visit, to do it justice, I ought to describe that county, and begin with MACCLESFIELD, to which place I went from NEWCASTLE on Thursday the 4th of April. As it is, I consider it as a debt I ought hereafter to pay, and therefore shall provide for it with interest. On the 6th of April I arrived at STOCKPORT, and on Sunday, the following day, I passed through MANCHESTER, and slept at WARRINGTON.

MANCHESTER is merely a market town, its chief magistrate being only a constable or headborough; but it is much more populous than most of the cities throughout the kingdom. MANCHESTER stands near the conflux of the Irk and the Irwell, about three miles north of the Mersey, eighteen east north-east of WARRINGTON, thirty-seven north-east of CHESTER, sixty-eight west south-west of YORK, and a hundred and eighty-two miles north-west of LONDON. The approach to MANCHESTER by the Infirmary is very beautiful. I admire handsome approaches to towns, and among many others that have highly interested me, those to HASTINGS, to LUDLOW, to SOUTHAMPTON, and to MANCHESTER, are my favourites in ENGLAND, and those to EDINBURGH, from SELKIRK, and to STIRLING and PERTH, in SCOTLAND.

My labour would never be over if I were to describe every thing worthy of notice in places so full of attraction and worthy of admiration as this. I am compelled, therefore, to pass over the public buildings, which are magnificent; the manufactures, which are immense and almost incredible, and extend their influence to the surrounding villages in all directions; and many, very many other particulars, which pour in wealth and opulence to the place, and diffuse comfort and convenience to the general community; but I the less regret the impossibility of enjoying this indulgence, by a reflection that I can say nothing upon the subject that is not felt and acknowledged, for the very word MANCHESTER implies industry and ingenuity.

WARRINGTON is known by its manufacture for sail-cloth, its brewery for exportation, its huckabacks, and its smelts, which are the finest I ever tasted. I left WARRINGTON, and arrived at LIVERPOOL Tuesday the 9th, where I remained till the 18th, when I set out to get further north. LIVERPOOL was an inconsiderable town in former times, but is now of immense extent, and, while it retains the slave trade, will certainly be classed first among all the British commercial sea ports. The gradual encrease in this town of every circumstance, marked by encreased poplation, is wonderful, and almost incredible.

In 1565, the trade was carried on by twelve boats and ships, the whole amounting only to two hundred and twenty-three tons, and manned by seventy-five seamen; there were at that time but a hundred and thirty-eight householders and cottagers. From 1762 to 1763, seventeen hundred and fifty-two ships were cleared out, measuring eighty-one thousand four hundred and fifty-one tons, and this statement was made exclusive of a hundred and twenty Guineamen; and by that time the hundred and thirty-eight houses and cottages were augmented to more than six thousand of the former, and a proportionate number of the latter; but at present I should think these calculations are much more than doubled; but before I have done I will ascertain the fact.

The best feature in the opulence of Liverpool is their extensive and reciprocal confidence. Any man of an enterprizing mind, and of strict integrity, may make a gradual fortune there. Credit is willingly given to a large and liberal degree; and even failures, except through dishonesty and wilfulness, are not considered as an infraction of the treaty; on the contrary, misfortune in this way is relieved, the falling are supported, and there are many instances of men who have been preserved from total ruin by such timely assistance, and who have afterwards attained considerable fortunes. I myself know several examples, and could name the parties, for as it is considered as no shame, so they know not the necessity of concealment. I shall content myself with the relation of one circumstance, which will be strong enough to prove the truth of these assertions.

A merchant, who had met with losses at sea, was at length reduced to one single freight, with which he was on the point of sailing as his own supercargo. It was not till within a few hours of the time when he intended to get under way that he became precisely acquainted with his situation. Having, however, made up his mind to it, he determined to reland the cargo, and satisfy his creditors as far as it would go. One of them hearing of his determination, came to him, and desired him not to proceed. "Why do you suppose," said he, "your creditors desire such a sacrifice from you? We know your principles, and it would be a reflection on us not to assist you." In short, a meeting of the creditors was called, who doubled the freight. The merchant sailed with it, made a suc-

cessful voyage, continued to be prosperous, and now possesses a large fortune, which he continually encreases by dispensing it in the same generous manner. When I return to LIVERPOOL and MANCHESTER, I shall enlarge further on those places.

On the eighteenth I left LIVERPOOL, and arrived at ORMSKIRK, a town of no great account. On the nineteenth I got to PRESTON, having passed over a very beautiful and picturesque county, and during my journey, took three or four sketches, but one which I afterwards drew between WIGAN and PRESTON pleased me best, and I therefore painted a picture from it. It will come in here. The time is towards the evening, and the atmosphere is covered with a warm haze. I had seen PRESTON fourteen years ago, but upon this expedition I found it so very much attered that I scarcely knew it.

PRESTON, a corruption of PRIEST TOWN, which it was originally called, from the number of the religious who formerly dwelt there, might with propriety, have some further appellation on account of the swarm of lawyers who now inhabit it, many of whom are officers belonging to the chancery of the county palatine. It has been long considered as a handsome place of retirement, and may on that account be compared to BARNSTAPLE, having been generally inhabited by persons of middling fortunes, who were said in consequence to be the pert, proud, and poor people of PRESTON! It has, however, greatly changed its complexion, for there is an extensive manufacture there; and thus the superficial is altered into the solid. PRESTON has always been a celebrated place; and, on account of the civil wars, their own internal commotions, particularly their contested elections, it has generally had enough to employ it. Industry, however, has now given it more sobriety, and opulence more consequence.

On Sunday the 21st of April, I arrived at LANCASTER, having dined at a poor town called GARSTANG. The effect of the castle, as the traveller approaches this city, is very grand and commanding, and so is the retrospective view of it, but as an effect, more in my idea, calculated for a picture or a print; though I took the castle in both directions, I have preferred a situation four miles of this side

LANCASTER, where the country is very beautiful and extensive, and where the first glimpse of the sea has a very novel and striking effect. It will come in here. I remember it was a most charming afternoon, and I have endeavoured to give the portrait that character. As I shall have a better opportunity of enumerating the different particulars relative to LANCASTER, and describing the roads over the sands to the lakes, on my second tour to the North, I shall now get on towards SCOTLAND, first thanking you for permitting this long imposition on your patience.

Leicester-Place. Yours, very truly,

NOV. 22, 1800. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XXXII.

MONOPOLY.

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

As in my notice of public subjects some imputation of indifference to the welfare of my countrymen might attach to my observations, if I neglected to speak of so obvious, yet so interesting a circumstance as that scarcity, which by some has been considered as real, and by others as artificial, I cannot resist what I am thus compelled to feel as a public duty; though I confess I enter upon the task with reluctance, because it is in appearance a kind of departure from my avowed resolution of not interfering with any political topic. I shall, however, do what I can so to manage the question as not to commit myself as a meddler on a matter of so much importance, but merely to support that opinion I possess, and have been actually forced into, not by sophism or insinuation, but by the actual operation of glaring facts.

Having witnessed the harvest of 1799, which, though in many places very abundant, was badly got in, I was, I cannot say confirmed, but quiescent in a belief that an actual scarcity at that time existed, and the authoritative documents that commanded an implicit admission of this fact, though they revolted my understanding, exacted a sort of obedient consent to what every body was required

to allow. I was like a person drubbed into a confession; who, after all, does not feel the force of the argument so strongly as the force of the blows.

When I counted upon the prodigious plenty which presented itself to my sight from the CARSE of GOWRY, in SCOTLAND, to DENBIGHSHIRE, in WALES, where I saw wheat straws approach to the appearance of rushes both in height and size, and yet borne down by the weight and magnitude of those ears they carried, I found it extremely difficult to allow that such self-evident conclusions could possibly be erroneous; and, indeed, with this proof in the teeth of public report, added to intelligent observation that I was industrious to procure, it would have been unreasonable to expect that I should discredit what I actually saw.

Finding, however, that great pains had been taken to induce a belief of an actual scarcity, my argument was this. Is it not true that an enquiry has been instituted? and has not a return been made which confirms the certainty of a scarcity so much to be lamented, and yet so unequivocally ascertained? How, said they, has this enquiry been effected? Are we sure of the sincerity of the opulent landholders? or, if they were sincere, are the reports of their stewards to be depended upon? or, if again we were safe there, have the farmers rendered up a just account? Is not the reverse of these desirable advantages not only likely but certain; for, if it were not, how would it come that in all the returns that have been rendered, no apparent symptom of monopoly has been discerned, and yet who shall say that monopoly does not exist, and that it is not practised to a most alarming extent; or, even that it has not been encreasing in a systematic gradation for many years? These answers were to me such close conviction, that I could not refuse my assent to them, and the more I considered the matter, the stronger was this conviction rooted.

Five and twenty years ago compared to what it is now, farming was a fair an open, and a honest profession. All that was expected was to clear three rents; one for the landlord, one for wear and tear, and the et ceteras, and one to maintain the farmer and his family. If superior knowledge, management, and industry procured a fourth rent, it served to open the way to new experiments,

to apprentice out children, and to lay by something for inevitable exigencies; farmers did not dream at that time of adding to their fortunes by an extension of their possessions; their pride was to improve what they then possessed, which was generally about a hundred acres. I knew a HERTFORDSHIRE farmer, who in the exercise of this laudable pride, had the best seed wheat in that county, and who had so judiciously manured a meadow of nine acres, that it produced him at one cutting seven and twenty market loads of hay, a most extraordinary instance certainly of capability in the land and merit in the holder; but which proves that the riches of agriculture are not so much derived from the quantity of the possession as the quality.

Here then is the clue to the discovery of monopoly. At the time I am speaking of hay was fifty shillings a load, and every body complained of so exorbitant a price. Now, after the most plentiful hay harvest this country ever saw, it is six pounds and nobody complains at all, and yet territory has extended and with it agricultural improvement; common sense therefore calls for more and better produce, and upon terms proportionably reasonable. It cannot be objected that using the land wears it out, on the contrary it begins now to be admitted that fallows are an unnecessary dead weight, and that they may be so managed to answer at all times by such alternate crops as in their natures assist the produce of one another, which circumstance alone would add nearly a fifth to the quantity of cultivated territory, and I have already shewn, in the instance of the farmer above, and one instance is as good as five hundred, that produce depends upon judgement and industry.

These deductions serve to shew that, in proportion as produce has increased, it has been dispensed upon exorbitant terms. The first step towards this I consider to have been the gradual diminution of small farms, a circumstance that has given a new character to the English farmer, which, in proportion, as it has lifted him into unbecoming consequence in himself, has lessened the aggregate consequence of landed property. The landlord, the steward, the overseer, the bailiff, and so on downwards, may be all very well in their places and may properly hold their progressive consequence, because no community can possibly exist

without proper subordination; but it is impossible to deny that the workman ought to have his proportion of remuneration. It is a noble and a grateful recollection, that when the thanks of the nation are given for a naval victory, the common sailors are sure to come in for their share.

Men of industry, judgment, and integrity, should be suffered to rent and conduct small farms, because practical knowledge is of infinitively more consequence than project and speculation. Men will not work for others so cheerfully as for themselves; but there is a reason still more cogent and more material to the community against overgrown farms and farmers. Those, who like my industrious HERTFORDSHIRE farmer are contented to labour for a fair competency, must bring their corn to market; none but purse-proud farmers have it in their power to withhold it; and, as the produce of the land belongs to every subject it is intended to nurture, for a valuable and equitable compensation, so by every moral and political obligation it ought indiscriminately to be vended upon reasonable terms. Nothing therefore can controvert the natural conclusion that large farms are one great cause of monopoly.

If we examine how the character of the farmer has altered within five and twenty years, we shall see this fact in a stronger light. I have already shewn in what rank farmers were intended to be classed at that distance of time, and what was then the extent of their expectations. The appearance of themselves and their families was simply neatness and decency, their meals were clean and frugal, their conduct was decorous and unassuming; they paid attention to their religious and moral duties, their sports were chearful and innocent, and their utmost ambition was to bring forward a smiling and industrious family, and to lay something by against a rainy day, that so they might anticipate the frowns of fortune, and be enabled to indulge themselves in the duties of humanity.

This *was* the picture. I have seen and contemplated it with delight. Need I say what *is* the picture? Are farmers and their families contented now with neatness, decency, and simplicity in their appearance, or do they dress in style and fashion, or just as a guinea-pig apes a squirrel, do they put on airs, affect-

ation, and caprice? Are they satisfied with appeasing the calls of nature at their meals, treating with a wholesome rasher of bacon and a smiling cup of ale, or do they produce game, made dishes, and wine? Are they respectful, modest, and diffident, or do they assume ignorant consequence and pitiable levity? Do they attend to their devotion and promote good fellowship, or are they full of profligacy, suspicion, and trick? Are their amusements such as are endeared by health and exercise, or do they consist of hunting with their harriers, shooting with a licence, frequenting assemblies, and playing at cards and hazard? In short, that they are the reverse of what they were it is impossible to deny; and, if any one will shew me in what way such extravagance can be maintained unless by monopoly, and its concomitants, forestalling and regrating, I shall, with great submission, acknowledge that my conclusions are wrong. But let no man attempt to do this, for in that case, I should be obliged to produce evidence of so serious a nature as to involve an inquiry into facts, which, as it is not in my influence or power to cure, had better, for the sake of propriety, not be agitated; though their bearing will certainly come in this letter; and thus they will be virtually decided upon without any particular application by me.*

This was the sum of my observations last year, yet was I unwilling to acknowledge truth, though it was impossible any longer to yield to delusion. What I have witnessed, however this year, quieted all my qualms, and realized my fears into authenticated and incontrovertible certainties; for I was not five days from home on a new tour, which I have made this last summer, to pass some time among my friends in DEVONSHIRE, before I was competent to assert that an artificial scarcity has prevailed throughout the most trying winter under which

* In a village, where a farm was a much better thing than a vicarage, the incumbent took uncommon pains to please his parishioners; but this task was like that of the man, and the boy, and the ass. After a time, however, by accommodating their different humours, he succeeded better, though to please all was impossible. Returning one Sunday from church, he was accosted by an opulent farmer, who, though he lived in style, was not a whit more tonish in his deportment or understanding than his ploughman. "Well, doctor," said he, "yow be gwain on "pratty well niow; but why duont yu gi' us niow and tan a scrap a Latin." "Why," said the vicar, "if I thought "it had been your wish, I should have had no objection; but for one thing I was afraid you would not understand "it." "That," said the other, "is niout to yow; an' we do paay vor the best, we oft to hay the best."

the poor perhaps ever laboured in this country. I copy the following passage from my diary, written at a market town about a hundred miles from LONDON, last May.

'Why will not the legislature interfere to some effect to stop the infamous practice of buying up and selling out grain, through middle men? Not an hour ago I heard a man taxed with this public fraud, for I can call it no other. Had I been the wretch, I should have trembled for fear of being ducked or rolled in the kennel. Was this the case with him? No, he gloried in his villainy, villainy surely in a moral sense, though perhaps not contrary to law. The fact is, he came last Saturday, and asked the price of wheat; he was told it would be five and twenty pounds a load: he gave eight and twenty, and bought the market, and the consequence was, that before the day finished, it was sold at five and thirty!'

Can there be a more glaring fact than this? The fair price of the wheat, to put it in the mildest way, was five and twenty pounds. How comes it then that we have laws, and yet such nefarious practices should be permitted, as to sell wheat ten pounds a load more than its real value. But I will not go into this to its full extent. Unhappily these instances are only branches; the body of this tree of evil is prodigious and impenetrable, the roots powerful and tenacious. The man I speak of could not do this with his own purse, or at his own risk. I will not, therefore, follow up a train of circumstances which would involve political questions. It is melancholy enough to know that the fact is constant, and the practice universal; nor does it appear possible to me, that even the power of government can put a stop to it while paper is permitted to be a substitute for property.

Formerly the utmost that could be done was by a meeting of men, who subscribed in proportion to their ability, for the purchase of any thing in the gross, that it might afterwards be retailed. Now nothing more is necessary than to draw paper out of banks for their own paper at a discount. It operates in the same manner as to their common expences, which they were once obliged to defray

by producing their crops at market; now, by paying their expences in paper they are enabled to keep back their crops till public necessity has given them an opportunity of selling them exhorbitantly. Let it be understood, however, that paper, which constitutes a part of the general circulating medium, is one thing; that which goes merely from hand to hand, for the purpose of creating ideal credit, is another. I must also stipulate for an allowance that I mean no hint at what is called accommodation paper in the way of licit traffic, which comprizes a bond of faith between men in large commercial concerns. This mutual guarrantee is as necessary, occasionally, as it is respectable. The other is as mischievous as it is disgraceful. One is the wholesome plant that encloses nutrition; the other the noxious weed that imitates it.

A bad cause ought to be well advocated. Farmers in this respect are driven into every corner, till their whole conduct is a complete fallacy. They tell you every thing but the truth, and to do this they must employ consummate art, because their business is to persuade you out of your senses. Instead of exulting at a prospect of plenty, they magnify every trifling inconvenience to the size of ravage and ruin. The grass always wants rain; the wheat has too much; the barley is mildewed; the turnips have the fly; and all this at the moment when vegetation is in full and confirmed vigour, and every thing announces an abundant harvest. Can one have common patience to reflect, that at the moment the blessings of heaven are showered upon these wretches, they almost seem exasperated against Providence for anticipating the necessity of bringing forward their hidden stores.

I have received great pleasure in mortifying farmers upon this subject. As I rode from LUDLOW to WORCESTER, in the latter end of the year 1800, I was delighted to see the hops, that for fourteen miles hung every where in prodigious abundance, like clusters of pale gold. Indeed I had never seen any thing like it, nor could I hardly gain credit for the fact at WORCESTER, where you may remember at that time the people were taught to believe there was a great scarcity of that article. The report propagated was, that they would all go off for want of rain. A few days afterwards, however, came a warm and genial rain,

and it was impossible for even the farmers to deny that it had saved the hops. I remarked the circumstance to a farmer as a most fortunate thing. He assured me that there was no cause for such violent joy about the matter, for though the rain had done good to the hops, it had in many places been so stormy, and accompanied with such monstrous large hailstones, that all the wheat was thrashed out upon the ground. "Upon my word," said I, "farmer, that is a very great "hardship upon you; but it is an ill wind that blows nobody good. It will "make fine times for the partridges and the stubble geese."

But the matter is infinitely beyond a joke; yet, were correction as practicable as exposition, it would be easily in the power of almost any individual to effect a reform. The wound, however, is deep, and merely bearing it without the power of applying the only balm that can heal it, might be attended with dangerous symptoms. I shall cease, therefore to probe it, lest I do mischief by irritation, and leave the case to state surgeons, who I am sure are able, were they but willing, to effect a radical cure.

I remain, my dear sir,

Leicester-Place, most truly your's,

Aug. 6th, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XXXIV.

WESTMORELAND.

DR. GARNETT.

DEAR SIR,

As my narrative and remarks have already acquired consequence through the united suggestions of intelligent and solicitous friends, I naturally avail myself of your kind consent to become one of my correspondents, both from a consciousness of the advantage your approbation will help to give my work in the opinion of the public, and a desire to profit by that valuable information, which from your universal knowledge and kind inclination, you are so able and so willing to afford me.

Though I shall hereafter trouble you to attend to my remarks on some of those journies I took in SCOTLAND, it is perfectly in place that I should begin with requesting what communication you find it convenient to give me concerning WESTMORELAND, your native county, by way of addition to those particulars which I have gathered on the subject. The principal part of what I had opportunity to notice on that spot, so full of various beauty and rich luxuriance, cannot however come with propriety till the second volume of this publication, as I merely passed through it on my first trip to SCOTLAND, without visiting the lakes, or feeling the fascinating astonishment conveyed by that delightful scenery which has inspired with so much fervour the minds of poets and painters.

You are so far acquainted with my plan as to know that loose and uncertain particulars relative to the antiquity of places or the inhabitants to whom they originally belonged make no part of it, except indeed collaterally, at the same time I am not so fastidious on this point as to reject any circumstance particularly curious. My idea is that as almost the whole of this kingdom possesses relicks and vestiges of its former inmates, traceable to periods so remote that enquiry is lost in obscurity, and as my researches are no longer in point than while they serve the purpose of assisting such observations as illustrate men and manners, places and customs, and all their bearings at the present moment, I cannot consistently introduce conjecture except where it may serve to bear out fact.

Though there cannot be any thing novel to you on this subject, it will be proper that I should submit to you for the information of my readers among other circumstances that WESTMORELAND explains its nature in its name, the land being a moor to the westward. It is bounded on the north by CUMBERLAND, on the north east by the bishoprick of DURHAM, on the east by YORKSHIRE, on the south by LANCASHIRE, and on the west by CUMBERLAND and part of LANCASHIRE, It extends about fifty miles in length from east to west, forty in breadth from north to south, and is about a hundred and fifty in circumference.

With respect to the civil and ecclesiastical divisions of WESTMORELAND, each of these is divided into wards, and each ward into constablewicks, the number of which I have not been able to learn. It was never divided into hundreds, wapentakes, or rapes, like other counties, because, as it is supposed, the inhabitants paid no subsidies, for they were considered as sufficiently charged in being obliged to defend that part of the kingdom against the Scots. This county is seated in the province of YORK; that part of it called the barony of WESTMORELAND is comprehended in the diocese of CARLISLE, and the other part called the barony of KENDAL, in the diocese of CHESTER, both baronies containing thirty-two large parishes. WESTMORELAND has no city, contains only eight market towns, and sends no more than four members to parliament.

I shall be at present as concise as possible in my account of what are called the lakes, for geographers insist that according to their right appellation, they are meres which, however they may endeavour at a distinction, comes to pretty nearly the same thing; but the inhabitants modestly enough leave these beautiful objects to speak for themselves, and are contented with calling them waters. They are accepted by the world as lakes, and I shall join the general voice which critically implies their effects, for they are precisely in broad form, mirror-like beauty, and tranquil situation, the best of all possible objects as a grand feature in landscape. The principal lakes in WESTMORELAND are Winandermere, generally called Windermere, Ulls, Coniston, Grasmere, Haws, Rydal waters, and some others, of all which I shall hereafter give a particular description. The rivers are the Eden, the Loder, the Can, and the Lon. The Eden rises at MERVIL Hill, near ASKRIG in YORKSHIRE, and runs across WESTMORELAND and CUMBERLAND, upward of thirty miles. In this course it is joined by twelve rivulets and brooks, some of these form considerable streams; after that it passes north-west till it joins the Eimot near a village called HORNBY. This last river is only a branch from Ullswater, which near PENRITH falls into the Eden, and this is also the direction of the Loder, which branches from a lake called Kentmere, near AMBLESIDE, and running south-east, passes by KENDAL, where forming an angle it runs south-west, and falls into a gulph of the Irish sea at a village near LEVENSBRIDGE. The Lon, Lone, or Lune, which gives name to a tract called LONSDALE, rises near KIRBY LONSDALE, and making south-west, after receiving several streams passes into LANCASHIRE, and running to LANCASTER, falls into the Irish sea.

There are of course in this county several mineral waters. At KIRKBY, about eight miles from PENRITH, there is a chalybeate that acts as an aperient. It is said to taste something like tea. At SHAPMORE, to the north of SHAP, is a water that has a strong fœtid smell, and tastes intolerably, and therefore is said to be of a sulphureous nature. At WITHERLAKE, a village seven miles from KENDAL, is a spring that throws up a white scum, and tastes salt, and therefore is said to be sulphureous. In BETHAM park, near BURTON, is a petrifying spring called the Dripping Well. All these have been analysed, and I am not only furnished with

the particulars, but also a list of the wonderful cures they have performed; but I shall trouble neither you or my readers with the recital.

It is impossible but there must be large quantities and great varieties of ores in the mountains of WESTMORELAND. The western parts of them have been tried, and the result was a discovery of copper ore and some veins of gold; but on account of the depth in which they lay, and other obstructions, the adventurers have been induced to abandon the enterprize. The hills are stocked with grouse; both black and red sheep in large numbers feed there, and venture to the very verge of the most frightful precipices; so do the small cattle called runts; but these seem to be more fearful, and therefore not so cautious, for the runt stands with its side towards the declivity, the sheep with its face. Both the char and the trout in WESTMORELAND are very fine, the char in particular which is taken in Coniston Lake; but the white trout in the Derwent water, and the red trout in Loch Leven, are certainly superior to any other species of this fish.

I should make patch-work of my narrative where I at present to go more generally into an account of WESTMORELAND. I shall therefore entreat you to proceed with me through that part of the country which I saw in 1799. On Tuesday, April 23, I left LANCASTER for KENDAL; and though I should have received particular pleasure had I taken KIRBY LONSDALE in my way, and so have passed those villages that encompass your house, which I have been frequently informed stands in one of the most charming situations in all WESTMORELAND, I was so singularly circumstanced that it was utterly ont of my power, and I have since informed you that, though I had resolved on the following year to gratify myself in this particular; and the more, because I should by that means have had an opportunity of seeing those little prattlers, for whom, on many accounts dear and interesting to you, and consequently to your friends, my family and myself had become anxious and solicitous, ever since we had the pleasure of seeing them when we dined with you at GLASGOW; a circumstance intervened of so indispensable a nature, that I was compelled, greatly against my inclination, to pass through BURTON.

BURTON is a poor town, and were it not the general thoroughfare for Lakers which is the term for those persons who go out of curiosity to visit the lakes, it would be the dullest of all dull places. As it is, parties are made to dine there; and it must be confessed, on this account, that, however vapid and inanimate the rest of the town may be, the inns seem to be active and prosperous. At BURTON, for the first time in my life, I tasted fresh char, certainly a delicious fish. Its flavour seems to have all the sweetness of the trout, with a small spice of the Sir Mullet.

At the distance of twelve miles from BURTON, and two hundred and sixty-six from LONDON, lies KENDAL, or KIRBY KENDAL, which signifies a vale on the river Ken. The castle, of which we gather but a very imperfect account, for the time when it was built is unknown, and little more than conjecture is advanced to prove that some ancestor, though nobody pretends to say which, of him whom HENRY the Second permitted to call himself WILLIAM of LANCASTER, was its founder, is now only a melancholy vestige of human greatness, and of course, on account of so many uncertainties, a continual bone of contention for all those who feed upon cavilling, out of which they extract the same deceitful kind of nutriment that the viper did from the file.

Whatever KENDAL was, and by whomsoever it has been inhabited, it is enough for my purpose that it is now a large, handsome, thriving well built town, I believe much larger than APPLEBY, and superior in trade, wealth, buildings, and number of inhabitants. Some idea of this may be conceived by a consideration that it has seven companies, with a distinct hall for each. These companies are the Mercers, Sheermen, Cordwainers, Tanners, Glovers, Taylors, and Pewterers. The sessions of the peace are kept here for that part of the county which I have described as the barony of KENDAL.

KENDAL has long been a considerable manufacturing town. Its woollen manufacture was in estimation even as far back as EDWARD the Third, and particular laws were made for its cloth trade in the reigns of RICHARD the Second and HENRY the Fourth. It will be remembered that SHAKESPEARE makes FALSTAFF say

he peppered two rogues in KENDAL green; so that its reputation was as great in dying cloth as in making it.

The state of the manufactures throughout the kingdom is not to be estimated by a present review, for we know that many of them are in a situation of partial stagnation, owing to the times, and the number of artizans who have gone into the army. KENDAL, before the war, is reputed to have employed five thousand hands on the article of knit stockings, including a hundred and twenty wool-combers and six hundred spinners; and they are then said to have made five hundred and fifty dozen pairs of stockings in a week.

KENDAL cottons, as they are called, are also well known. This manufacture is generally exported, or used for sailors jackets. It is made from coarse WESTMORELAND wool. Linsey-woolsey is made at KENDAL. The wool for this article is in general spun by the families of farmers and labourers, and brought to market. About a hundred hands are also employed as tanners; and about a hundred more, who receive waste silk from LONDON, boil it in soap, comb it, spin it, and dress it, and then send it back again. But the greatest attraction at KENDAL for a traveller is a discovery which has been made but a short time, that the common stones of their quarries, with which the houses are built, are a beautiful marble, and capable of a most exquisite polish. I brought a piece of it away with me. I wonder some gentleman of property has not built a mansion with all the advantage of which these stones are capable; the appearance would be very magnificent. If a fairy were to polish KENDAL in the night, the inhabitants would breakfast the next morning in the most beautiful place in the world.

On the 25th I left KENDAL for PENRITH, where, after I had passed by SHAPP, and traversed all those dreary moors, without seeing a hundred yards of even ground for perhaps ten miles together, I arrived in the evening.

After a short preliminary description of CUMBERLAND in my next letter, which will be addressed to my kind and respectable friend, JOHN WARE, of WHITEHAVEN, I shall be ready for my first trip to EDINBURGH, by the way of LANGHOLM and HA-

WICH, and on the borders of the Esk, till it yields to the Tweed at SELKIRK, forming altogether a great deal of picturesque beauty. In this journey I shall again beg the favour of your company; and, in the mean time, I thank you most sincerely for the attention you have been so kind to afford me,

I am, dear sir,

Leicester-Place, very truly yours,

Aug. 12, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XXXV.

CUMBERLAND.

Mr. WARE.

MY DEAR SIR,

AVAILING myself of your kind consent to assist me in the statement of those particulars relative to CUMBERLAND and the ISLE OF MAN, which I may find it essential to introduce among the observations I have made on my different tours, I now do myself the pleasure of addressing to you this preliminary letter; to which gratification I am excited by a number of considerations, less obvious probably to you than to every one who knows you, for kindness has a stronger operation on those who receive, than those who confer it.

I know perfectly well that you are not conscious of any kindness which you have shewn towards me, and, even if I should be able to make out, which I think I can without much sophistry, that the fact is nevertheless as I insinuate, you will find it difficult to understand how such a construction can be put on what a man does simply for his own satisfaction. If you argue in this manner it will be to your own detection, for it will be allowed against you, that this refuge will clinch the nail in my favour.

To save your confusion I am willing to put it another way, and to say, that though there may have been something rare in the manner of it, there has been

nothing particular in the kindness itself. I have had attention volunteered upon me in many other instances, and, indeed, in a circuit of more than four thousand miles, I seldom experienced any thing else; nay, the letters that compose this book are pretty well fraught with acknowledgements to this effect; but a man has a right to be pleased in his own way; and there was something in your solicitude so much to my taste, something that so anticipated my wishes, so considerately obviated all difficulties, and looked so much as if you took my desert upon credit, that I not only received it as a singular pleasure, but felt it as a handsome compliment. Thus I put you out of the argument; and though I am ready to allow, for I sincerely believe it, that you have no inclination to admit the necessity of this or any other acknowledgement, I who possess the gratification, ought to be considered as the best judge of its value.

This letter is intended as an introduction to what I have to say relative to CUMBERLAND, for were it to embrace more it would be out of place, as I had no opportunity of acquiring particular information till my tour of last year, when I had the pleasure of seeing you at WHITEHAVEN; for in 1799 I merely passed through PENRITH and CARLISLE, in my way to SCOTLAND. I shall, however, go into a general, but brief account of this extraordinary county, so full of curious and astonishing objects, in the manner I have been accustomed to speak of other places, reserving to myself such observations as I became competent to make on my second visit, and these I shall take care for my own sake, to corroborate by those materials which you have had the kindness to promise me.

For the sake of regularity, not for your information, it is necessary to say, that CUMBERLAND is bounded on the north by SCOTLAND, and part of NORTHUMBERLAND, on the west by the Irish sea, on the south by LANCASHIRE, and on the east by WESTMORELAND and NORTHUMBERLAND. It is fifty miles in length from north to south, about thirty-eight in breadth from east to west, and its circumference is about a hundred and sixty eight miles. It contains one city, fourteen market towns, and about ninety parishes. It lies in the province of YORK, and diocese of CHESTER and CARLISLE, and sends six members to parliament.

CUMBERLAND, in its component parts is separated in a different manner from any county in ENGLAND; for it consists of five wards, which have the names of CUMBERLAND, NORTH ALLERDALE, SOUTH ALLERDALE, these two, however, appear virtually but one, being cut by the Derwent, Leth, and Eskdale. This different mode of division is very easily accounted for, watch and ward having been constantly kept for the security of the frontiers originally, probably for the defence of that wall so well known to have crossed this part of the country.

As I am not bound by my plan to investigate derivations, I have seldom attempted to trace names to their source. It is pretty obvious, however, that the title of this county signifies the land of CUMBRI or CAMBRI, for so were those Britons called who anciently inhabited it, and who were expelled by the Saxons; with great difficulty, however, for notwithstanding the dreadful ravages of the Picts and Scots after the declension of the Roman power in this island, the original inhabitants, the BRITONS, continued here longer than in any other county, and were the last that bent under the Saxon yoke.

It would be both an injustice to the subject, and an infringement on regularity, were I in this place to go into a description of the rocks, rigs, craigs, fells, and mountains in CUMBERLAND, which daily excite the curiosity of those who are fond of timid and awful pleasure, or else the serene complacency with which these stronger sensations are corrected in a contemplation of the stillness of those liquid and translucent mirrors by which those wonderful objects are reflected. Hereafter when I describe their effect on my mind at the time I visited them, I shall not spare to explain that delight little short of enthusiasm with which those astonishing objects naturally inspire every anxious beholder. At the same time I shall not condescend so far to enter into minutiæ as to magnify every sluice, through a fissure into a tremendous cascade, nor every jutting prominence into a frightful precipice. That I have been delighted both in WESTMORELAND and CUMBERLAND, I have given proof both on canvas and on copper, but neither in my conception or in my landscapes can I stoop to take up parts and pieces. The effects of nature to please me must exhibit a magnificent whole, simply grand, and solemnly impressive.

I shall, however, as it has been my custom in this part of my description, mention some particulars, and among other things the rivers and lakes; the first of which are little more, particularly Eden and Eymot, than a continuation of those in WESTMORELAND, which I have described in my last letter, addressed to my ingenious and kind friend DR. GARNETT, except the Derwent, which rises in BORROWDALE, and after running along the Derwent Fells, and forming perhaps one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, which I shall in its proper place warmly contend, it passes through the middle of the county, and first making a turn to the westward, glides by COCKERMOUTH, and falls into the Irish sea near WORKINGTON.

Ulls water, to which both CUMBERLAND and WESTMORELAND have a claim, I have also already described. Bassenthwaite water, at the foot of SKIDDAW, is a charming lake; it gives a soberness to the scenery, in proportion as the traveller advances towards COCKERMOUTH, which diffuses a calm over the imagination, after it has been agitated by the romantic objects towards the jaws of BORROWDALE. Leathes-water, from which in majestic grandeur rises HELVELLYN, produces a striking effect in various directions. These, with Buttermere-water, which lake is, I think, one of your favourites, Cromack-water, Lowes-water, and Haws-water, make up the most material list of those beautiful objects, without which, landscapes would lose one of its most prominent features.

Some of the inferior rivers in this county are the Eln, the Esk, the Leven, the Irthing, the South Tyne, the Peteral, and the Caude. The same fish are common to WESTMORELAND and CUMBERLAND, and are novel and admirable in both; the latter county has upon the whole the advantage, on account of its vicinity to the sea. The mines are various, and highly productive, particularly those of coal, lapis calaminaris, and lead. Among Derwent Fells rich mines of copper, with a mixture of gold and silver were formerly discovered; but the most singular mineral production in CUMBERLAND is the black lead, which the inhabitants call wadd, and which is not to be found so perfect in any other part of the world. It is certainly the molybdena, the mineral which I have described in my account of CORNWALL, but that which is found there is of a very inferior nature, and

scarcely sufficient in quantity to excite notice, whereas in CUMBERLAND, it is in the height of perfection, and in such prodigious abundance as to afford a supply for all Europe; but these and other particulars I shall afterwards take up more at large, and devote the remainder of this letter to narrative.

With that copy of your paragraph in my pocket, which I have long ago mentioned in my correspondence with my worthy and kind friend KING, and with which Mr. GORE, of LIVERPOOL, had furnished me, I arrived at PENRITH on the 25th of April, 1799; and, as I am not conscious that liberal kindness and well meant attention were ever lost upon me, I had just meditated to write to you when Master WALMESLY, at the Crown, a perfect sailor, with, of course, a dash of the humourist, informed me that he expected you at PENRITH. It so happened, however, that I had not the pleasure of seeing you till the morning of the 27th. In the interval, as you know, for you were present, I performed one of my entertainments, a sort of circumstance I very rarely hint at; nor should I mention it here but for two or three whimsical things it produced.

You may remember that, whenever I paused, I was publicly admonished by a drunken quaker, to the no small amusement of every one in the assembly room, and to no one more than myself; for knowing exactly how every thing would turn out, I humoured this new mode of chorus to my entertainment so comfortably, that a stranger might have been induced to fancy that I hired the man for the purpose. Towards the conclusion, I had occasion to introduce my song of the Auctioneer, which, by accident, I had found out to be Broadbrim's profession. At this he was completely hung up or cut down, which are, I believe, both genteel expressions for this kind of non plus, and presently afterwards the spirit moved him to take himself off.

I have a much stronger motive, however, than this for bringing myself forward in this place otherwise than as a mere traveller. On the year before I had visited CORNWALL, and performed at PENRYN, when a respectable gentleman in that neighbourhood, who is deprived of his sight, addressed me after the performance, and, among other things, made several enquiries after my brother, who was a

very celebrated seaman, and whose history, which will prove this assertion, will be literally found under the name of Captain HIGGINS, in my novel of HANNAH HEWITT. It is very well known that he had all the companiable qualities of a true tar, and that his company was universally courted and admired. Many of these qualities this gentleman enumerated, and in particular was very lavish of his encomiums on his excellence in beating a drum and imitating a blind fidler.

At this same PENRYN I had the honour and pleasure of becoming acquainted with my kind and valuable friend Colonel GEORGE, to whom I have addressed part of my account of CORNWALL, and with whom my readers, long before they arrive at this letter, will have been perfectly well acquainted.

Remember this was at PENRYN, almost at one extremity of the kingdom. I shall now return to PENRITH, almost at the opposite extremity.

After the performance, two gentlemen addressed me, one of whom was blind. The other prefaced his conversation by informing me that he knew my brother perfectly well; that he was an excellent companion, beat a drum to admiration, and had a wonderful knack of imitating a blind fidler, with the addition, that he always acknowledged to have had an affectionate regard for me, though he could not help fancying that I was jealous of his singing, for that I always compared the sound of his voice to the tearing of brown paper. The coincidence is already pretty strong; but I'll strengthen it more by saying, that if I met with a warm friend in Colonel GEORGE at PENRYN, I found the same good fortune by meeting with you at PENRITH. But this is not all; for, by way of climax, I shall finish this account by mentioning a circumstance no less extraordinary than true, that there were the same number of persons in the one assembly room as in the other.

If I should be blamed for rather quoting from my own diary than collecting curious and authentic accounts of places, castles, churches, and other objects, which it is generally supposed to be the indispensable duty of a tourist to notice, I must excuse myself by saying, that I never meant, in the prosecution of this work, to sentence myself to any such hard labour. A little drudgery one must

sometimes submit to, otherwise a tour might be as well fancied as taken. Local manners and pursuits, however, comprehend almost the whole of what is reasonably necessary to be known, and a writer will more worthily, because more usefully, employ his exertions by stimulating one part of the kingdom to an imitation of what can instruct the mind or warm the heart in another, than by an enumeration of all those ragged and miserable vestiges of barbarity, even could their origin, nature, use, and their long *et cetera* of attributes, be ascertained, instead of being as they are, involved in perpetual contradiction, which may serve as a very inconsiderable testimony, comparatively, of that misery and massacre through which not only this, but every nation, has waded to the accomplishment of civilization.

On this account, though I think it would be rather incurious to leave PENRITH without noticing that it is nineteen miles south of CARLISLE, and two hundred and twenty-two north-west of LONDON; that it is situated on a hill, called PENRITH, or PERITH FELL; that it is customary there to tan hides and pot char; that there are represented in the market-place a great many bears, each climbing up a ragged staff, in memory of a certain knight, named Sir OWEN CESARIUS, of great strength and large stature, who is said to have been celebrated for his great exploits against bears, though unfortunately we have no proof that this species of animal ever to any degree of annoyance infested this country; that in the reign of HENRY the Second a house of grey friars was founded; that there are two charity schools; that in 1385 the town was burnt down by the Scots; and, what is better than all this, that the inhabitants are a thrifty and contented people; I must reiterate that all such information is not to be considered as a right, but as a courtesy; and thus you see, so I may but have my own way, such is the froward nature of mankind, I shall give as much material intelligence in my efforts to exhilirate as many matter of fact writers have done in their efforts to lull people asleep.

Long before I shall have occasion to repeat the pleasure of writing to you publicly, I shall have made some progress in my second volume. As I visited CARLISLE and LONGTOWN on my second expedition, it will hereafter be

a properer time to speak of those places. In the mean while, I need not entreat you to bear your promises of assistance in your remembrance, or to believe that I am,

Dear Sir,

your obliged friend,

Leicester-Place. and humble servant,

Aug. 28, 1801. C. DIBDIN

LETTER XXXVI.

THE POOR.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY KIND AND SOLICITOUS FRIEND,

I AGREE perfectly with you that I have a great deal at stake in the publication of my book. Every man who gives his opinion on public subjects ought to be well assured that his facts will bear out his arguments, a cautious conduct I shall certainly not lose sight of, lest where I profess to do general good I may do particular mischief.

This letter shall be an introduction of what I mean to say of the poor in ENGLAND, and in SCOTLAND, which I shall hereafter follow up with a relation of what I could learn as to the capability of this country to provide sufficient grain of different kinds and other necessaries for the maintenance of its inhabitants; a subject which at this moment ought to be touched on with great wariness and deference by every iudividual.

The poor may be arranged in three classes. Paupers for whom the parishes provide through the different regulated contributions of the public; the labouring poor, whose incapacity wholly to provide for themselves, obliges them to resort to the voluntary contributions of the rich and the liberal; and persons of small incomes, who are virtually poorer, and experience more inconvenience and distress than those of the other descriptions.

I shall examine and exemplify these three heads with as much ability, as diligent enquiry, minute observation, and some experience, have enabled me. The paupers may consider themselves as a happy race of beings, free from every care and anxiety, and subject to no inconvenience but such as are inseperable from age and infirmity, to which they must have submitted in any state, provided they are not treated unjustly by those whose duty it is to administer the provision the law allows them. I do not speak of common beggars, who may thank themselves for their misery, for every one has a parish, and who would wholly disappear if a general resolution were taken to withhold those alms, which always abet drunkenness, and too frequently theft.

The labouring poor have a stronger claim than parish paupers to our pity, and therefore to our relief, which should come heartily from us. because it is not a contribution arbitrarily exacted; but this description of the poor are a revolting set, proud without motive, and thankless without cause. They claim, they exact, and falsely accuse those who are at the care and expence of furnishing them with salutary viands and wholesome potations, of fraud and deceit. How many railed against gentlemen and even noblemen last winter for having caused as they insisted, the soups to be made of horseflesh; but as this arises from incorrigible ignorance and a warped idea, thanks to the recent doctrines of being freeborn, let them still be succoured. It is hard to serve the ungrateful, but let the arrogance of the father and mother be forgotten in the relief afforded to their children.

The third class, which includes all those of small incomes, who can neither beg nor work, is a mournful instance of poverty in its most mortifying state. How many daughters of clergymen, subalterns in the army, and others of various descriptions, whose incomes have expired with them, have been thrown on the world, and now earn the bread of prostitution, and retaliate ruin; but though this terrible evil is not perhaps without an adequate remedy, it cannot be pointed out but by an interference, which is certainly wide of my province in this undertaking, and therefore I can only deplore what it is not in my power to avert.

The poor of SCOTLAND are not described by these classes, and therefore will hereafter be considered as an article by itself, for which I am promised some admirable materials; a consideration of the labouring poor, will make a part of that head in which I mean to touch on the scarcity of provisions. In this letter, therefore, I shall confine myself to the poor, who, by prescriptive right, are provided for in their separate parishes; and having already said that they cannot be otherwise than comfortable, if those who have the dispensation of their public due act uprightly towards them; I am now bound to examine how far this is or is not the truth.

I am afraid too many public trusts are in some degree violated; how then should the poor escape that injustice so generally practised, who have no influence, no remedy, no means of appeal? and unfortunately it falls too often to the lot of men trained in the trammels of trade, mere trade, retail trade, as distinct as any thing can possibly be, from the broad and liberal feature that distinguishes general commerce, to be their guardians. What is the consequence? they estimate nothing but by narrow calculation; no moment can be spared from gain, no idea from lucre; their time must be paid for, and who in this case pay for it but the poor? How many extra rates are made, not only for public dinners and other wasteful extravagance, but too frequently for the private convenience of overseers, who contrive to have a power of retaining the money a certain time in their hands; and if this is not the case, why do the same men serve so disagreeable an office, and with avidity, over and over again? I believe there is no man who doubts the truth of this accusation, nor shall I be discredited if I assert that men have been known to have a feeling with the whole range of tradesmen, through the medium of governors of workhouses, who, like the butlers of large families, secure their market penny by permitting short weight and high charges.

I know that many overseers of the poor have acted conscientiously and uprightly, that they have not only given their time, but their advice and their pecuniary assistance. I have known men of fortune solicit for these offices that the poor might receive justice at their hands; but what a feather has this been, weighed in

the scale of general utility! All men are not HOWARDS, or if they were, could they penetrate impositions, which their situations and connections in life prevent them from discovering or even suspecting? Now and then a man in middling life starts up and becomes the champion of the helpless, then indeed their cause is properly taken up.

I know one of this description, a printer, who has greatly to his own honour, and the advantage of the town, where he resides, volunteered himself into public offices, in order that justice should be critically done to the poor and to all those to whom it might be his particular business to be the guardian. He is celebrated for having never received a bribe; and the public situations of various kinds that he has accepted so far from being an advantage to him, have been a heavy expence, which fortunately, however, he can very well bear.

This gentleman, among other instances of promulgating his ideas of public justice, took a great deal of trouble to establish a criterion upon a fair calculation of the price of journeymen's wages, paper, and other materials, by which the charges for printing ought to be generally made. To enforce this he set an example, from which he has never since deviated, that though his charges were very reasonable, which I know practically, he got a handsome profit for his pains; but this was considered as an innovation, and he was a meddler and a troublesome man, who ought only to have concerned himself about his own affairs. In short, other printers thought he had no business, and he soon found he had no power, to extend his influence and philanthrophy beyond his own town.

From this gentleman I learnt various particulars on the subject of parish officers; among the rest, he told me the following story. He was going to LONDON, and, having had occasion to bait his horse at TURNHAM-GREEN, he understood there was on that day to be a great public dinner. Upon enquiry, he found that the company were almost wholly to consist of church-wardens, overseers of the poor, and men in other public offices. Prompted by his own feelings, he for a moment had not a doubt but the meeting was with a view to solace the unfortunate, and to consider of the public good, and that the expence was to be de-

frayed privately by the individuals, who thus worthily filled their public situations.

While he was cogitating upon this, and almost longing to partake of the company of men with feelings so congenial to his own, he was accosted by an old friend, who was at that time overseer of a certain parish, and who of course made one of the company. By this gentleman, a wax-chandler, he was cordially invited to dinner. He naturally began to expatiate on the public spirit of men who laudably filled their official situations, but was soon given to understand instead of the disinterestedness he had hoped for, the expence of the dinner and every thing else, even the hop for the ladies in the evening, and the wax candles his old friend had undertaken to provide, was to be defrayed by the poor. The rest may be anticipated: he knew it would be folly to reason on the subject; he therefore made an excuse as soon as he conveniently could, to get away from his very charitable friend, mounted his horse, and dined in LONDON.

I shall never have so good an opportunity of telling the following story as the present, in which, however, I shall take no merit to myself, because, whatever might have been my conduct had the event taken place, I certainly meditated no more than to get out of a disagreeable scrape. When I commenced tradesman, and became stationary, I was pestered with being summoned on grand juries, to serve as constable, and threatened with all the et ceteras. I soon learnt how to evade the consequences of some of these unpleasant situations, for which I was little calculated, and less inclined. I should, however, have been once fined for constable, had not the summoning officer forgot to put his name to the summons.

My name was called over, no answer was made, and they instantly set me down to be fined eight guineas. I had so provided, that a person, furnished with this shadow of a summons, was upon the spot to watch the business, who enquired why Mr. DIBDIN was to be fined eight guineas? Upon an explanation, he produced the informal summons, and said he should appeal to the chairman. Upon which the high constable, finding it was not signed, called to the man to

sign it then. This my personator would not suffer; and as the dispute began to grow pretty loud, the chairman enquired what was the matter, the business was explained, the high constable reproved, and the fine remitted. This however is only the exordium to my story.

My conduct had roused these wasps in office, none of whom I had ever known or spoken to, and it was determined I should not get off so easy. It was therefore triumphantly signified to me by a side wind that I should on the following election be nominated overseer. This I considered as a very serious business, and I determined to adopt an expedient to evade it. I therefore circulated a report, through a channel by which I was sure it would reach the principal contrivers of the plot, that if they thought proper to chuse me, I would serve the office, and serve it honestly, that if the poor were any way defrauded, I would make public what perhaps it might not be in my power to prevent, but what should certainly never have my concurrence, but above all I declared I would never consent to a dinner, unless the expence was privately defrayed by the partakers of it, by the way this would have been a dreadful tax upon me, who have never dined but once at a public meeting for twenty-seven years.

My determination was intimated, and I never heard a single syllable more on the subject. It is true that from a private quarter I learnt that the parish in question had a select vestry, and therefore a great deal might be done to which the overseer would not be privy, and that way I might be defrauded of any power to do public justice, but upon the whole, it was determined that I should go free, upon the principle of Captain Plume, who orders Serjeant Kite to discharge the attorney, "For" says he, "a fellow that can write can draw petitions, and therefore discharge him."

I can never be blamed for instancing such facts, because every man in the kingdom who serves the office of overseer honestly, will feel the same indignity that such things exist as I do, and while these men give examples in their own conduct of those benedictions it is in their power to deserve and obtain from the poor, they will join their endeavours to procure for them that comfort which by

the common claim of humanity and the decrees of that benignant legislature under which they live, are their honorable due. So shall the defenceless experience no hardships but those which nature and their dependant situations inflict; so shall unfeeling tradesmen cease to defraud those whose feeble voice must cry in vain for redress; so shall workhouse-keepers no longer be obdurate taskmasters; so shall in short the prodigious sums collected for this benevolent use, which comprehend upon an averaged calculation two per cent upon every man's income, be fairly, honestly, and conscientiously dispensed.

I am not to learn that the poor in workhouses are too apt to be refractory, especially when they first are placed there; but this can never happen in workhouses that are well regulated, and where there can neither be incentive or encouragement to turbulence and dissension. The true health of the mind is a quiescent state of reason. There is not in human nature an unqualified inducement to vice and disorder; and, did not shame and fear of reflection plunge the mind again into error during that cowardly interval when the senses are sufficiently awakened to conviction, but not vivid enough to embrace resolution, intoxication of either the mental or the corporeal faculties would be but little known. It is all then the creation of example. How beautifully has GOLDSMITH made the Vicar of Wakefield reason pickpockets and housebreakers, first into sobriety, and afterwards into religion.

The first step to this reform is a total abolition of spirituous liquors. I am informed by a medical gentleman,, who has had the humanity and the courage by the bye, to operate a reform in a workhouse, that by this prohibition every proposed salutary end has been effected. His arguments are that an inflammatory state of the body acting upon the mind, possesses it with qualities uncongenial to it; and, though the immediate effect of this privation may be attended for a short time with disagreeable and even dreadful symptoms, yet the faculties resume at length a tone and a strength that give new vigour to the constitution, and fit it with power and will for rational and salutary exercise. This gentleman, is an enemy to the gradual decrease of bad customs, he does not palliate, he eradicates, and has assured me that his recipe, which he has for twenty years watched through all its operations on so many various patients, has been uner-

ringly attended with such complete effect, that the most beastly dram drinkers have not only been cured by it in the most dangerous cases, but at this moment they loath the very smell of that distillation formerly so delicious to them, with which but for this interference they would long ago have been poisoned ; but he whispered in my ear that, however he and others had been able to correct the poor, the master and mistress of the workhouse generally remained incorrigible.

The conclusion therefore comes to this. If two per cent of the whole national income be appropriated to relieve this description of the poor, and if this prodigious sum be honestly dispensed, then are these poor an honourable monument of English beneficence, and, bating natural and unavoidable infirmities, in possession of every happiness and every comfort. If the reverse be the fact, either eggregiously or no more than in the estimation of a scruple ; to that degree is humanity mocked at, and the nation defrauded. Let every one of my readers say how far his own knowledge or any leading circumstances induces him to lean to one side or the other of this question, and let his pleasure or indignation be proportionate.

Leicester-Place, Your affectionate friend,

Sept. 10, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XXXVII.

SCOTLAND.

To Dr. GARNETT.

DEAR SIR,

I CONGRATULATE myself that, in my description of SCOTLAND, cursory and superficial as it must necessarily be, I shall have the advantage of being watched by a friend of your knowledge and experience. As I professedly visited that country in 1799, with a view to give my public opinion of it, and as the satisfaction I then received induced me to make a second appearance on the following year, I was of course more industrious to obtain information than I should have been had I moved only in the capacity of a common traveller.

Another motive, and a strong one, naturally excited my curiosity. The English have been too much accustomed to take upon credit, and without allowing themselves the best opportunity of drawing conclusions by an exercise of their proper understandings, ideas unfavourable to SCOTLAND, both as a people, and a country.

My observations having been vigilantly made and maturely considered, I have written, by way of clearing my ground, my honest undisguised sentiments, disdaining prejudice on the one side, or partiality on the other, in an address to our

hearty, manly, worthy, and sensible friend, WOODFALL, which will serve as a preface to those letters which you have kindly consented to receive from me. He knows SCOTLAND, and, I believe, as no man's experience is more confirmed, or discrimination more acute, I may take worthy satisfaction to myself in his answer to my letter. It has in it, among other things which perhaps I ought not to notice, these words, which I think I honestly may:

"I accord most readily with the generality of your remarks, which are lively "and liberal, and, I verily believe, correct and well founded. You do the "Scotch no more than justice; but the compliment of doing that, for even jus-"tice in our strange times is considered rather as a compliment than as an act "of duty, is heightened by the handsome, but honest contrast you preserve all "through your letter, ballancing the merits of the two characters, nationally "considered, of Scotchmen and Englishmen, in equitable scales."

All places have their peculiar advantages and defects; and, therefore, it is an insult to the public to dwell with adulation on one side, or acrimony on the other. From all I have seen, all I have read, and all I have learned, I cannot conceive that any country upon earth possesses so large an aggregate of beauty and utility as ENGLAND; but shall a man be so narrow minded to suppose, or pretend to suppose, that this fortunate country engrosses all that is delightful and beautiful in nature? It is ridiculous and pitiful, and the most gigantic talents sink in the attempt to pigmy impotence.

Nothing disgraces the dignity of a historian to such humiliation as an assertion of falsehoods that every man who opens his eyes may refute. Nay, this is your quarrel; for, if many things which Dr. JOHNSON has insisted on are true, several circumstances in your work which I am myself competent to vouch for are false. As one powerful instance will better serve my purpose than a number of inconsiderable examples, I shall attempt to establish my position by a few allusions to that extraordinary man, who, with an understanding so virile and a mind so puerile, perpetually reasons and pouts through his Journey to the Western Isles of SCOTLAND.

To do this, I will not say that Dr. JOHNSON was malignant, or sour, or sarcastic, or false, or unjust; I will only say that he was in a dream, or perhaps unlucky, or that he wore spectacles of some peculiar nature, that gave a jaundiced tinge to his mind as well as his sight. Some influence of this kind must certainly have predominated over him, because he not only saw things, but understood them with sensations completely different from those of other people; and I dare say his own candour, were he alive, for candour is allied to judgment, and all the world allow the judgment of Dr. JOHNSON, would induce him to admit this, because, however positive he might have been in general, he would not have easily maintained that he was in the right, and all the rest of the world in the wrong.

This induces me to say that the Doctor, if he was not insincere, was at least unfortunate; particularly so indeed, for in his irritability, he has neglected common justice, not only to the reputation of the Scotch, but to his own; and thus, while he affects the appearance of veracity, for misfortunes seldom come single, he anxiously, and indeed awkwardly, toils to pervert its operation. A single line of veracity in a historian is more valuable than a column of ingenuity; but by shrewdness and subtilty, veracity may be managed in a manner so lukewarm and so tame, as to represent fact as of no value; and ingenuity may be so adroitly and so plausibly conducted, as to give virtual falsity the air of literal fact.

A Scotch author, with great modesty and ingenuousness, says, that at the time of the civil wars, in the reign of CHARLES the First, a part of CROMWELL's soldiers, who were left behind in SCOTLAND sick and wounded, were of considerable benefit to the Scotch during their stay, for that they taught them to improve their modes of life by the practice of several English arts, and excited among them a spirit of industry. In what language does Dr. JOHNSON paint this fact? After noticing that CROMWELL civilized the Scotch by conquest, and introduced by useful violence the arts of peace, he makes out his position by adding, that "the people learned from CROMWELL's soldiers to make shoes and plant kai l."

If Dr. JOHNSON admits any advantage either partially or generally in SCOTLAND, he contrives, by deductions of supposed miseries and misfortunes, to invalidate all its merit. There is no good with him but is as a feather crushed by some concomitant evil of enormous weight, yet see the operation of this absurd dogmatism. Elegance and polished manners unaffected and solicitous hospitality, are mixed and chequered with savageness, barbarism, and smiling abundance sinks under penury and famine. He believes with avidity every thing unfavourable. He doubts most scrupulously every thing beneficial. He enters the lists, and disputes inch by inch the credibility of the poems of Ossian; and he implicitly credits the single assertion of a Scotchman, who was perhaps treating him as he deserved by laughing at him, that there are but two trees in the county of FIFE.

Sometimes he indulges a larger latitude, and, when he is in this mood, he complains of the tediousness of travelling, and says, that a Scotch driver having no rivals in expedition, neither gives himself nor his horses unnecessary trouble. I had very seldom occasion for post horses in SCOTLAND, but when I had, I should have been better pleased if had I been driven slower. I was driven from MIDDLETON to EDINBURGH, twelve miles, in an hour and twenty minutes; from HOLYTOWN to GLASGOW, eleven miles, in an hour and a quarter; and from CALDER to EDINBURGH, twelve miles, in an hour and ten minutes, and yet these are not the best roads in SCOTLAND.

A dispute of this kind is never so well settled as by making a man condemn himself. Dr. JOHNSON says, that from the banks of the Tweed to ST. ANDREW'S he never saw a single tree that he did not believe to have grown up far within that century. This is a very long stretch, for the Tweed reaches only to BERWICK; but even this does not bear out what immediately follows, "that there is no tree "either for shelter or for timber; that the oak and the thorn is equally a stran- "ger; that the whole country is in uniform nakedness; and that a Scotch tree "might be shewn in ENGLAND as a horse in VENICE." Nor did Dr. JOHNSON feel or believe this; for, after lamenting all this barrenness, he talks of having a prelude to the Highlands, and of beginning to take leave of fertility and culture; soon after this he discovers that the Duke of GORDON has an orchard, some tim-

ber, trees, and a plantation of oaks, that at the fall of FIERS, the mountains are covered with trees, and at ARROCK he finds out a landlord who depopulates his farms by felling his timber.

Certainly either from accident or design DR. JOHNSON did travel through the most uncultivated part of SCOTLAND, greatly to his satisfaction I am willing to believe; for as he foists in with so much eagerness and so little fidelity, all those positive assertions that there are no trees in SCOTLAND, upon the strength of his having partially visited that kingdom, and even then been obliged to take refuge in misrepresentation; how greatly it must have encreased his mortification had he gone from DUNDEE to PERTH, from thence to KINROSS, and pursued his route to DUNKELD, in which circuit he would have found trees, that for height, beauty, number, and variety, are no where excelled, not even by the luxuriance of DEVONSHIRE; and, as for age, it is a literal fact, that a short time before I was at PERTH, a tree, which had been deracinated by a storm, was sawn asunder, and when the circles were counted, which denoted the different years of its growth, they amounted to three hundred and fourteen.

Had the doctor been unfortunate enough to have pursued this road, had he passed through that region of beauty and fertility, between DUNDEE and PERTH, the CARSE OF GOWRY, had he seen those majestic and towering elms and beeches at SCONE, the lofty grandeur of those stately pines near LOCH LEVEN, or the astonishing diversity of luxuriant vegetation in the way to DUNKELD, one should be apt to imagine the world would never have seen his narration, so difficult would it have been on the subject of prejudice to have avoided self conviction; and yet, as he passed without a word of admiration through INVERARY, with no more than a cursory notice of the Duke of ARGYLL's spacious park and rising forests, and at length, since he found nothing about LOCH LOMOND but uncultivated ruggedness, he might, by some left-handed sophistry peculiar to his taste, have ingeniously contrived to turn the ash, the weeping birch, the pine, and the white thorn, all of which are uncommonly beautiful in SCOTLAND, and grow to an astonishing height, into briars and thistles.

If Dr. JOHNSON had a pleasure in disparaging SCOTLAND, or if he thought there was any wit or sense, much less truth or justice, in attempting such a disparity, he has made himself the dupe of his own duplicity. I will take any one as barren a tour through ENGLAND as the Doctor's tour to the HEBRIDES; and where the people and the land shall be found equally uncultivated. Every approach to the sea is in some degree rocky and barren, and thus are persons of the highest rank and fortune, whenever they chuse to reside where they can indulge in the fashionable luxury of sea bathing, obliged to broil themselves upon downs and sands, where, to use Dr. JOHNSON'S words, "the variety of sun and shade is utterly unknown."

As to "stone hedges," he would in ENGLAND have found plenty of them, and perhaps more proportionably than in SCOTLAND, especially on those roads, which lead to mines, sea-coasts, and manufacturing towns; nay, near those, he might have seen "hedges," if it must be so, made of pottery, iron ore, and other spoiled matertals, denoting the mine or manufacture at hand. His lamentations that INCH KEITH, which is merely a barren rock and incapable of cultivation, being so near the capital of a kingdom, ought to have been purchased, and cultivated, and adorned with expensive industry, were such ideas worthy to be indulged, would have yielded to envy, that LONDON, having only the Thames, does not, like LEITH in the Frith of Forth, boast one of the most beautiful harbours in the world; and if he had such commisseration for the inhabitants of the highlands, for contenting themselves with the luxury of burning peat, he might have taken humiliation to himself by reflecting that at PORTLAND ISLAND, within three miles of an occasional royal residence, the people are glad enough to put up with the luxury of burning cow-dung.

I conceive that common justice is the inheritance of all the world, and it is peculiarly incumbent on a historian, not only to allow, but to confirm the possession of it; besides there is a want of policy in extolling your own country at the expence of any other; for a thing overrated sinks in the comparison, in a much greater degree than the difference between the truth and the exaggeration;

whereas, whatever is undervalued appears in the eye of candour advantageous, more than proportionably to the degree of injustice it will have sustained.

If any thing could excuse exaggerated praise, it must be that feeling which induces an obedient and willing hand to record the dictates of a warm and ingenuous heart, at the moment when grateful recollection describes liberal, sincere, and solicitous hospitality; yet the task, even under these impressions, must be performed with delicacy, and deference; for philanthrophy forbids every thing beyond justice. We cannot upon this principle boast much of the warmth or the ingenuousness of Dr. JOHNSON's heart, for though the attention he received was of that nature eminently endearing to gratitude, yet he puts it on and kicks it off like an old slipper, perfectly satisfied that in quality of master, he had a right to exact that or any other price, however extravagant or unreasonable, as the value of that information he deigned to communicate.

I shall finish with Dr. JOHNSON by saying that, however I might have been averse to impeach the infallibility of a man of those eminent talents, which that extraordinary character certainly possessed, this task was in my situation indispensible; for I should have found it of very little use in the opinions of those who are bigotted to his doctrine to say, that white is white, where he has insisted upon their believing it to be black, had I not gone some length to establish this fact; so problematical, and yet an axiom. Again, a man may be allowed to risk a good deal in self defence, which is the precise ground on which I stand; for the doctor's assertions in relation to SCOTLAND are exactly the reverse of mine, and in what way could I possibly expect that mine should be implicitly credited, unless I could completely prove that his deserved no credit at all? But I know not whether he has not ascertained my point better than I have, for towards the end of this work, he calls himself in unqualified terms, a pedant, and in his dictionary he defines pedantry to be an aukward ostentation of useless learning.

Leicester-Place, Yours very truly,

C. DIBDIN.

April 25, 1801.

LETTER XXXVIII.

SCOTLAND.

DR. GARNETT.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING now properly cleared my ground, I am ready to avail myself of your kind promise to accompany me into SCOTLAND. Nothing, however, but your friendly anxiety and good wishes for the success of my labours could prevent me from being to you an uninteresting companion, because it is impossible that I should give you information on a subject with which you are much better acquainted than I am. You will permit me, however, to benefit by your correction in narrative and remarks, that so, I may with the greater propriety submit them to my readers, and the more, because, without detail in my descriptions, it would be impossible for me to argue upon the respective advantages and disadvantages of that country upon a comparison with ENGLAND.

I have, in my first letter to Mr. THOMAS SHELDON, noticed generally that SCOTLAND includes that part of GREAT-BRITAIN which lies north of the river Tweed; but it is necessary here to be more particular. SCOTLAND extends two hundred and seventy eight miles in length. Its breadth is variable, being in some places a hundred and seventy-eight miles, and in others only from fifty to sixty; yet do the branches or friths so extend and insinuate themselves within the land that there is no spot in the whole kingdom more than forty miles from the sea.

The ancient, and indeed the natural divisions of SCOTLAND, are the counties on the north side, and those on the south side of the Frith of Forth. Nature seems according to other authorities, to have divided it in two by the GRAMPIAN and GRANTZBRION hills; and, if we allow the rivers to mark its boundaries, it consists of three peninsulas, one to the south, one in the middle, and one to the north. All these distinctions have very sensibly settled into the Highlands and the Lowlands, and its subdivisions are now into thirty-three counties, which are EDINBURGH, HADDINGTON, BERWICK, ROXBURGH, SELKIRK, PEEBLES, LANARK, DUMFRIES, KIRCUDBRIGHT, WIGTOWN, AYR, DUMBARTON, RENFREW, STIRLING, LINLITHGOW, PERTH, KINCARDINE, or MEARNS, ABERDEEN, INVERNESS, NAIRNE, CROMARTIE, ANGUS, or FORFAR, CLACKMANNAN, KINROSS, BANFF, ROSS, ELGIN, or MORAY, SUTHERLAND, ARGYLL, BUTE, ORKNEY, SHETLAND, and CAITHNESS. CLACKMANNAN and KINROSS, BUTE and CAITHNESS, and NAIRNE and CROMARTIE being however, consolidated as three counties, chuse their members alternately, and therefore the number is reduced to thirty, and accordingly thirty members are sent to parliament, exclusive of fifteen from the different boroughs.

It is naturally conjectured that the Scythians were the ancestors of the Scotch, who after they had conquered the Picts, usurped their dominions, and called the kingdom SCOTLAND. I know not whether on account of their having driven them into a corner, or made them fly their native land, but the word Scot is said to signify both a corner, and a wanderer.

The surface of the country is very irregular, and the inequality of soil in SCOTLAND has been mentioned as a subject of great astonishment. As its appearance the Highlands in particular, exhibits a chain of high and tremendous mountains, a large part of that kingdom must naturally be incapable of cultivation, and thus we find from the reports of a few years ago no more than about twelve millions, one hundred and fifty-one thousand, six hundred and ninety-five acres in a state of agricultural improvement, out of twenty-six millions, three-hundred and sixty-nine thousand, six-hundred and ninety-five. There can be no doubt, however, that the calculation would be very different if it were made now, which I shall hereafter fully shew when I review the state of agriculture in ENGLAND and

SCOTLAND, which it is my intention very attentively to do when I give an account of my second northern tour, at which time I considered the subject more minutely.

There is no question but SCOTLAND was once very well wooded, and there still remain some very extensive forests. There are woods in the Highlands which reach from twenty to thirty miles in length and four or five in breadth, and produce excellent oak. ETTRICK wood in the south, is supposed to be the remains of SYLVA CALEDONIA. You have given us in your tour a very interesting description of the parks and forests of INVERARY. The trees about PERTH, and on the borders of LOCH-LEVEN, are beautiful and majestic. The ash, the weeping birch, the willow, the thorn, and many others are much finer and more luxuriant than they are in ENGLAND, or indeed any other place I ever saw, not omitting LORAINE, and every where near the borders of SWITZERLAND, and the firs are numerous and lofty, and make useful timber as every carpenter can vouch. But, indeed, they have trees enough to be very prodigal of them, for I have seen them cut down quite young for their bark, or to be charred for smelting-houses, and other purposes, when it appeared to me that branches would have done as well; for this, however, there is of course a motive, but I own it struck me as a departure, in the Scotch, from their characteristic economy.

The principal rivers are the Tweed, the Forth, the Clyde, the Solway, the Tay, and the Spey, all which appear to me to derive their sources in a manner very different from the rivers in ENGLAND, for they originate from two or three, and sometimes many lochs; the Forth, for example, issues at its extreme distance from the sea, at which parts of it it divides into many branches taking different names, from eight of these small lochs. A description therefore of such rivers as I passed will come better as we visit them than in this place, I shall therefore proceed to those remarks which I made during my first trip to SCOTLAND, which continued only thirteen days, and yet I think during that short time I was not unobservant or inattentive.

On Sunday, April the 25th, I left CARLISLE, and having passed by LANGTOWN, finding it would only be a few miles out of my way, and not at that time knowing that I should pay another visit to SCOTLAND, we resolved to take a look at GRETNA GREEN, of which place I shall hereafter have an opportunity of taking particular notice. Upon this occasion I can only say, that we were struck with the length of that hopeless hill, so calculated to damp the ardour of lovers, by which you ascend to it, and that from the west side of it I took a retrospective view of the coast of CUMBERLAND, with Solway Frith gliding at the bottom of that large and diversified tract of land which, even at that distance, appears to form the base of Skiddaw. I am partial to this effect, because it takes in the whole magnitude of that astonishing mountain, which I have ascertained by having been since better acquainted with it.

On the right appears CAWSEY PIKE, and the opening into BORRODALE. A height is seen a little more to the left, exactly in the situation of Saddleback; and yet I think it cannot be that fell, but a prominent part of Skiddaw. In the left hand corner is faintly seen HELVEYLIN, and the fells about Leathes Water; but the print will come opposite this page, and there let it speak for itself. I rather think the tint is not faint enough for the distance, but this is not always an infallible criterion; for grandeur will sometimes give astonishing force to objects, though very far off. I saw the Island of ARRAN nine miles before I reached AYR, and could distinguish it plainly from BUTE and KINTYRE, though the nearest of these masses is more than forty miles from that situation; and yet I am near sighted, and receive but little assistance from glasses.

Returned from our GRETNA GREEN frolic, we pursued our way through that magnificent glen in the way to LANGHOLM. The Esk, over which there are occasionally bridges, that not only accommodate the traveller with a better road, but a constant variation of prospect, runs at the bottom between these craggy ridges. There is something of this effect, except indeed the river, in the road from KENDAL to PENRITH, but it is merely in miniature. A carriage at the bottom of this glen cannot better be described than by comparing it with a vessel lying in the trough of the sea in a gale of wind, the waves forming a hill on each side to

stupendous height. Fortunately, however, the apprehension is different; the waves are moveable hills, between which you may be crushed, but the mountains crush nothing, except perhaps now and then a straggling sheep, which, losing its hold, falls from some treacherous declivity.

Seeing nothing around me but picturesque beauty, which augmented considerably as I approached LANGHOLM, I began to think that either it would shortly be at an end, and yield to nakedness and sterility, or else that the English had entertained an erroneous idea of SCOTLAND; but, when I came within a mile and a half of LANGHOLM, and was fairly at the entrance of SCOTLAND, I thought I could not do better than let its portrait speak the real truth. I therefore made two drawings, at stations distant from each other; but, indeed, I might have made two and twenty, and always different; and, having selected that which I thought had the best effect for a picture, I have since painted it, and its resemblance will be found here. The evening was serene, and the extremities of the trees were tinged by the rays of the setting sun.

During the whole of the way from LANGHOLM to MOSPAUL GREEN, to which place we set out on the following morning, we were accompanied by the meandering Esk, which small river receives its principal beauty from a constant ripple, occasioned by the various objects calculated to cause temporary obstructions. Little islands, sometimes with a homely cabin, like that in the view given here. add to the diversity which characterises this country, full of variegated beauty, and afford a peculiar novelty, completely different from any thing I ever witnessed, except in those parts of LORRAINE verging towards SWITZERLAND.

From MOSPAUL GREEN to HAWICK, where we dined in a miserable way, we saw nothing of the Esk, and therefore lost one feature of our prospect; nor were the hills in this part of our journey so rich or so diversified. We had therefore less to entertain the eye, but, perhaps, more to satisfy the mind. It was the latter end of April, and therefore of course yeaning time, and the prodigious number of lambs that, in a peculiar manner, for the wind was very piercing, called for care and attention from the shepherds, and shepherdesses, by the bye, gave us

infinite amusement. I cannot say that the manners were perfectly Arcadian, but they were interesting and impressive.

Here, a sturdy well limbed lassie, of fourteen or fifteen, was seen with two lambs, just yeaned, their white noses peeping out of her plaid, which she had, with the utmost tendernss and solicitude, wrapped round them. Further on, a healthy old man had huddled together a number of them, near some furze or brush wood, which he had formed into a temporary shelter; the dams all the while keeping up a melancholy and piteous concert. Other similar objects attracted us, during all which time I could not refrain from remarking with what grace the peasants managed their plaids, which, as it appeared to me, they used so as to serve as a complete shelter against the severity of the weather. They were thrown about in all directions, according to circumstances; and no Spaniard, to guard against the poignard, could shift his cloak in a more elegant or dexterous manner, than did these Scotch peasants "throw their auld cloaks about them," to parry the sharp gusts of the wind. The scene exhibited great novelty to me, and I must confess I enjoyed it a great deal.

Having left Hawick behind, we sometimes saw the Tiviot, and once crossed the Ale, both branches of the Tweed, which they join at Kelso; but, before we reached Selkirk, where we passed over the Etrick and the Tweed, we were for some time accompanied by the Yarrow, which originates in Loch St. Mary, and which will be remembered with pleasure as long as all true lovers of lyrical and pastoral poetry shall admire Burns. We slept very uncomfortably at Selkirk, where the people, determined to oblige their English guests, undertook to warm the beds, though they were evidently strangers to the necessary operation; for the maid performed it in a substituted way, by means of a large covered stew-pan filled with warm water.*

* I mentioned this circumstance to a gentleman a short time ago, who assured me that he had been with some friends at the same house, and that one of the company wished to enquire into the cause of this tardiness, and at length found out that the utensil used for the purpose of warming beds, no doubt our old friend the stew-pan, was at that time frying fish.

Determined to reach EDINBURGH on the following day, we left SELKIRK at an early hour. The road began to be less interesting, but it gave evident signs of the approach to a metropolis. We dined early at QUEEN'S BANK, baited at MIDDLETON, and were soon after in sight of EDINBURGH, or rather ARTHUR'S SEAT and the CALTON HILL. I therefore resolved that the moment I should have a proper opportunity I would take the effect of those singularly picturesque objects, and having got to BONNYRIG, and caught a view of the Castle, which from thence has a magnificent appearance, and St. ANDREW'S Church in the New Town, OLD REEKY being at that place hid by the hills, I took my sketch according to custom, and made my memorandums; the result will be seen in the print opposite this page. It was at that time towards evening, and it had rained during the day, which circumstance threw a strong and a grave medium tint over the mountains, correspondent with the massy soberness given them by the receding clouds.

At length I reached EDINBURGH, and shall now put an end to this letter, by assuring you that I am very truly,

My dear Sir,

Leicester-Place. your faithful humble servant,

Oct, 23, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XXXIX.

SCOTLAND.

DR. GARNETT.

DEAR SIR,

I SHALL now submit to you some general observations relative to EDINBURGH, at which remarkable place I arrived on the first of May.

As I entered this city by the road from SELKIRK, I had an opportunity of seeing it from one extremity to the other, which was literally a climax, both as to effect and situation; for having been precipitated to the bottom of the CALTON Hill, we gradually ascended in winding directions from among that throng of streets, where loaves, stockings, pitchers, hats, cabbages, and numbers of other incongruous particulars were painted against the houses, to denote the occupations of their inhabitants, who live up stairs into one street, and down stairs into another, burrowing like so many rabbits in a warren, to first the SOUTH-BRIDGE, thence we passed to the NORTH-BRIDGE, and at length arrived at a lodging which had been taken for me in GEORGE-STREET.

As it is in some degree necessary, for the information of my readers in ENGLAND, that I should take something like historical notice of this city, so long the scene of turbulence and warfare, and now settled into sober, and no doubt, permanent tranquility, I shall here go over some particulars to that effect. The nature of my publication, however, obliges me to be very brief.

EDINBURGH stands upon the side of that rock, which was considered as the bounds of ancient CALEDONIA. Whence it derives its name is to me a matter of very little moment. To those who think such considerations worthy their attention, it may be necessary to say, that BUCHANNAN, whose authorities are respectable, tells us that it is derived from the two Gaelic words Dun and Edin, which signifies the face of a hill. The choice of the situation was evidently to give it a station of military strength. The castle, which was no doubt impregnable, is situated on the summit of a rock, and there the inhabitants fled as to an asylum, whenever they were weakened by the incursions of the Danes and the Saxons, or else to collect themselves in order to sally forth upon the enemy.

In proportion as barbarism yielded to the influence of civilization, the Scottish monarchs felt their power increase, and were gradually enabled to establish themselves to the southward. The court, in consequence was occasionally held at EDINBURGH, and the church followed as its natural and rational companion. HOLYROOD-HOUSE was built, and chapels grew out of this establishment, and thus it went on in a course of regular improvement, till by the reign of JAMES the Fifth, it was in some degree the seat of commerce and industry. LEITH harbour was a material improvement to the exercise of the fisheries, and the sons of those nobles who had fallen in the field of FLOWDEN, infused a gaiety and a fashion into public manners, that began to enliven the court, and polish the people.

The union, which was expected to be a fatal blow to EDINBURGH, has, however, lifted it gently into its present consequence, and it may be necessary to say a few words on that subject here, because, however the union with IRELAND is considered as a general benefit to that country, there are many who insist that it will be the destruction of DUBLIN. 'Tis true that the union with SCOTLAND was a complete downfall to the splendour of EDINBURGH, as that term is generally understood, for it was no longer the seat of government, it lost its consequence as a place of legislation, and it degenerated at once into a provincial town; but it was very soon admitted that wherever the laws are administered the effect and the essence of government are felt; and as, not only all internal disputes concerning property were by the establishment of the courts of justice decided there, but

that collateral questions were multiplied prodigiously by English intercourse, the concerns of both countries being now mutual; as, also, the fashions of LONDON, to which they had been hitherto strangers, spread themselves to the northward, and from thence gave a tone and a polish to the manners, EDINBURGH in losing brilliancy, stumbled upon solidity.

Other advantages were quickly seen and eagerly caught at by the thrifty Scotch. LEITH, so favourable to trade, was presently filled with shipping. They felt that the Mediteranean and the Baltic were good objects of speculation; and, though the rebellion for a season troubled this tranquility, it was at length restored with increased advantages. Again, the solidity of their understandings, and the sobriety of their researches, suggested to them that no place in the world could be so favourable to the study of medicine. The consequence followed the premises. A medical school was established, and EDINBURGH became another LEYDEN; and, now, having gained a preeminent reputation in physic as well as law, they obtained a permanent hold on mankind by their ability in regulating the two great blessings of life, health and property. The consequence was that ENGLAND graduated in SCOTLAND.

As one mental acquirement is the legitimate offspring of another, from these studies issued more, and science in all its branches presently spread through the Scotch universities. Professorships were established, and other sensible and eligible regulations made, and the literary and scientific researches of the colleges of SCOTLAND became universally emulated. Thus as an emancipation of the mind has a forcible effect on the manners, so the Scotch, though a people naturally wary, and who think before they act, began to adopt a grace and an elegance never dreamt of by their hardy forefathers.

To the building erected on this foundation of opulence, for mere solidity is not enough, the reign of his present majesty, added a most noble and beautiful superstructure. EDINBURGH has for the last forty years made rapid strides in improvement; and, as they never even in the midst of their pleasures lose sight of business, the middling people have by wonderful sagacity and industry got most

astonishingly forward. New commercial firms have been established, an incredible number of new shops gaily decorated have been opened, new buildings to a prodigious number have been erected, and the value of ground has been enhanced to perhaps ten times as much as its estimation fifty years ago. I remember you informed me two years and a half ago that ground for building in GLASGOW was sold at the rate of twenty-seven guineas the square yard, and a gentleman at EDINBURGH proved to me by calculation that it was there still dearer.

The various branches of manufacture, which has been established and have arrived to perfection in SCOTLAND are so immense, that they can only be understood by a recollection of the ingenuity, industry, and patient perseverance of the people. Your interesting account of DALE's little manufacturing world holds out a most powerful example. Of all these of course, EDINBURGH feels the influence, and it is owing to this that it is enabled to carry on its retail trade, which I have contemplated with an ineffable degree of astonishment. I'll venture to say that there are no such shops in LONDON and WESTMINSTER as many of those in EDINBURGH. The streets are lined with spacious and elegant shops, and the shops with genteel and fashionable customers, who purchase there the most expensive articles either for use or luxury. The shops where is vended the famous glass manufactured at LEITH, are truly splendid. This glass is brought to a most wonderful degree of perfection. I was shewn, among many other curious things a goblet, that perhaps held three half pints, which was cut so as to emit the rays of a diamond. The price was five and twenty guineas, and this I give as a single instance that they have an idea of luxury at EDINBURGH.

The markets are stocked abundantly; but it must not be inferred, though there is certainly a difference between the price of marketable goods in LONDON and EDINBURGH, that the proportion is any thing like what is generally imagined, on the contrary, to put it within a fair point of view, the market at BRISTOL is cheaper, and in every article infinitely better. The mutton at EDINBURGH, and indeed every other part of SCOTLAND, being naturally fed, and therefore in good health is sweet and wholesome, and of admirable flavour, in particular where the sheep have fed on the wild thyme. The beef is small but well tasted, and like

that in most parts of FRANCE, well calculated for soups and stews. The veal in general is intolerable. It is usually killed when very young, and therefore before it has imbibed any nutritious juices. The appearance of it is very forbidding. They call the calves in CORNWALL, quaintly, Staggering Bobs, which expression denotes sickliness and debility, and therefore insinuates that they are knocked down because they can no longer stand up, which I am afraid, with some qualification, may be applied to the calves in SCOTLAND; and it is on this account that the traveller, on his return to ENGLAND, is invited to eat veal as a dainty and a rarity.

As to the appearance of EDINBURGH, the High-street, as you descend from Castle-hill prone to the Cannongate, which is nearly a mile in length, and from eighty to ninety feet in breadth, is certainly a magnificent object By the way, the principal merit of planning the towns in SCOTLAND is the great width of their streets, which are generally very spacious. This circumstance has been probably enforced by necessity; for, as the houses are very high, I counted in some few near Parliament-close fourteen stories, they contain a number of inmates, which, as it is, when they are emptied into the streets, appear in a perpetual throng, and which, were the ways narrower, would not be able to pass without elbowing each other; but another and a material reason seems to be the necessary admission of free air, in order to carry off obstructed and stagnated vapours.

St. Giles's, under the roof of which are contained four churches, and which forms one side of Parliament-square, is an extraordinary structure; so is the Tron Church. The Royal Exchange is also an object very worthy of admiration. The street which crosses High-street, and takes a direction from the South Bridge, on which you have the Cowgate and all those low buildings under your feet, is still more extensive, though not so long. It is full of spacious and beautiful shops, which continue to the North Bridge, at the end of which, on the left, stands that noble pile the Register Office, which is an interesting object both as to its beauty and its utility. It was bnilt to preserve the records of the law department, as well as the titles to their property of individuals from fire, or any other destructive accident, so that it is the general strong box of EDINBURGH.

Objections by the ignorant have been made to this mode of security; and it has even been remarked, that if the Register Office were burnt down, there would be an end of all public and private obligations in writing; but its peculiar construction will easily shew that to be impossible.

At the end of the Bridge, on the right hand, is an elevated parade, filled with handsome shops, that serves as a convenient promenade, and leads on to LEITH, certainly the Wapping of EDINBURGH. Beyond the Register Office, on the right, are a long range of houses, both elegant and uniform, terminating in the centre with St. Andrew's Church, and its tall spire, and opening to a view on the left of that astonishing and stupendous structure the Castle. These houses compose one of three parallel streets, which, together with various and spacious new buildings that are encreasing every day, and an extensive and beautiful square, comprise the New Town. It stands upon a large tract of ground, upon an elevated situation, and infinitely exceeds, in its general effect, any thing in BATH. Indeed, it must be confessed that there cannot be a more extraordinary and romantic combination of natural and artificial effect as a picture than the Castle on the right, the Old Town in centre, and the Calton Hill and Arthur's Seat on the left, most elegantly and sumptuously framed, as it were, by the New Town. The only possible objection to the houses is their having only penthouse roofs, not one of them being distinguished by a parapet. The Scotch say that this is adding neatness to magnificence. Let architects decide the question.

The University of EDINBURGH has long been in eminent repute all over the world. In medicine, theology, the belles lettres, and other branches of useful and polite literature, it has obtained, and still preserves, a merited and honourable fame. The botanical garden, the four banks, and many other institutions, speak loudly the opulence, the grandeur, the solid consequence of that capital. The Scotch banks must be a sort of Peruvian mine. They are a kind of sinking fund, into which every thing is received, and out of which nothing returns. Pay a guinea, and you receive a note. When this note is worn out, and I have seen one in circulation nine years after it was originally issued, another is given for it, and so on to the end of time, or the failure of the bank, which last event,

according to this mode of security, is impossible. Nor is this practice ever disturbed by claimants; for the Scotch seem suspicious of money, and therefore are accustomed to deal in nothing but paper, which mode meets no obstruction, for they can all read and write.

If there should ever be a shock given to the firm foundation on which the real consequence of EDINBURGH depends, I predict that it will be the introduction of fashionable folly. That species of the dulce, which, issuing immediately from the utile, comprises innocent simplicity, harmless mirth, and undesigning manners, has been always native in the Scotch, and their habitual characteristic, and it is still no doubt very discernable; but they must take care not to be defrauded out of it by a frivolity less adapted to them than perhaps any other people. They must be cautious not to yield up a taste for useful information and rational reading, and a relish for their own beautifully simple and sweetly plaintive melodies, to the influence of fanciful and speculative writings, flimsy, and vicious novels, and an affectation of Italian taste. RIZZIO improved Scotch music; modern Italians mutilate and destroy it. In him it became visible; it them it is frittered out of sight.

I saw too many symptoms of this when I was at EDINRURGH. I own it did not appear to me that it has extended, at least in the same degree, to GLASGOW; and, as a marking instance, and indeed the very last thing I should have expected to find in SCOTLAND, I saw impudent, ignorant, and worthless foreigners, who were holding the minds of this sensible, thoughtful, wary people, in captivity, while they laughed at that folly and credulity which had fallen a prey to their superior cunning. The conclusion is, that the calculations of prudence and wariness may be very ingenious and full of caution; but, as they partake of honour and honesty, they can never be a match for that subtilty which originates in fraud and imposition, and that men, and women too, are sure to be imposed upon from the moment they have admitted those arts which flatter their foibles to subdue their understandings.

Yours, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, with the most perfect sincerity,

C. DIBDIN.

Oct. 25, 1801.

LETTER XL.

SCOTLAND.

DR. GARNETT.

DEAR SIR,

On Wednesday, the eighth of May, I left Edinburgh for Glasgow. It was at that time sacrament-week, and I found it remarkable enough, that prodigious numbers of the lower orders of people were flocking to Edinburgh in all directions, and that all persons of distinction were leaving it; for at this season, the particulars of which you know much better than I, all pleasure is interdicted, and every thing has the most sombre and melancholy appearance. I have already said how very much I admire those public ceremonies, as far as it respects their influence over the people. I have heard a great deal of the schismatic gradations of opinions and doctrines in the Kirk of Scotland, which I suppose, like all other speculative notions relative to religion, though they spread out in branches, wonld fall and perish did they not tenaciously adhere to the same trunk. In the present instance they seem all to be of a mind, and equally solicitous to impress the multitude with a due sense of their moral duty.

I found nothing remarkable in my way to Glasgow. I went the Calder road, which I was told I should find the best. It was certainly very good, and the accommodations were passable, but nothing more. I cannot but confess that my astouishment was highly excited on my entrance into Glasgow, which appeared

so thronged and crowded, that it put me in mind of LONDON at a fire; but it is very easy to account for this appearance, which in some degree I have done in speaking of EDINBURGH. The houses are so large and lofty, and therefore contain such a large number of inmates, that, in the exercise of their common occupations, they cannot but line the streets, to the wonder of strangers, to whom at first sight this reason does not present itself.

An examination into foundations for the pursuits of erudition and scientific learning is not my business at present, I shall hereafter have a proper opportunity of going into the nature, principle, and eligibility of those institutions in SCOTLAND, upon a comparison with those of OXFORD and CAMBRIDGE. A brief view of GLASGOW and a few cursory observations will therefore be all that I shall trouble you with in this place.

GLASGOW appears to be the seat of industry and opulence, as well as science and learning. The tontine, which is the LLOYD'S of that city is a witness of one, and the college of the other; but the grand feature of this distinction is the appearance of that city as you approach it, where the number of spires, turrets, wareho uses, engines, and every other object that can announce a busy, a grand, and a dignified place, lye, if I may be allowed the expression, in a kind of promiscuous regularity. The solid and the substantial seem to describe GLASGOW, which give but little ide of the gaiety and fashion of EDINBURGH. They are in their way the Lacedemonians and the Spartans, and so indeed they seem to consider themselves EDINBURGH laughs at the plainness of GLASGOW, and GLASGOW pities the frivolity of EDINBURGH.

GLASGOW, which will ever be the inevitable fate of great and enterprizing towns, has had a great deal to struggle against. The strong combinations raised against them on account of their rich and exclusive trade in American tobacco; the stagnation of specie in consequence of the American war, where they had great extensive, and hazardous credits, to the loss of many large properties; and many other adventitious misfortunes have shaken GLASGOW at different times to the foundation; but another ANTEUS, it has recovered from oppression with renewed

energy and encreased success; and, having by most extraordinary perseverance uniformly elevated itself into grandeur and opulence, it now marches on with gigantic strides, exhibiting a consolidated union of riches, power, consequence, and magnificence, bidding defiance to the strength of any Hercules but time.

A statement of the amazing numbers of persons of all ages employed in the different branches of the cotton manufactures would exceed belief were it not well certified. Sir JOHN SINCLAIR informs us that in 1794, the manufactures of GLASGOW employed in town and country fifteen-thousand looms, that each loom gave employmeut to nine persons, upon an average, including women and children, in the different stages of the manufacture, from picking the cotton, till the goods were brought to market, making in all a hundred and thirty-five thousand persons, and that each loom produced, taking one with another, a hundred pounds a year, makiug an aggregate of a million and a half. Its increase since 1794 must have been prodigious. You seem to think at least oue half; and, when we consider that here we are only speaking of the manufactures of GLASGOW, and that were we to add PAISLEY and its connections, DALE's manufacture, which you have so interestingly described, and others which give bread to such incredible numbers of the industrious poor, no country for its size can look more honestly and worthily on the road to fortune than SCOTLAND.

Had GLASGOW, like EDINBURGH, a LEIEH harbour at its doors, its manufactures would certainly find a more ready exportation. GREENOCK and PORT GLASGOW are its nearest ports of any consequence, the first of which is called the LIVERPOOL of SCOTLAND, than which nothing can be more ridiculous. LIVERPOOL itself, I should suppose, exports more GLASGOW goods than GREENOCK. Our friend, a West-India merchant, at whose house you may remember we dined, took some pains to procure me information on this subject, and I was astonished at the quantities of goods making up at GLASGOW for the purpose of being exported from LIVERPOOL to the West-Indies. It must be confessed however, that the manufactures of GLASGOW, and indeed of SCOTLAND, consist of slight inferior goods, and it is from the quantity and not the quality they draw their riches.

These sources of wealth will always give GLASGOW a preponderance in comparison with EDINBURGH. Those of enterprize and spirit are of more valuable consequence, as to the aggregate riches of a nation, whether in money or land, than those merely bred up in courts, colleges, and libraries. Merchants project and execute plans for profit and improvement; gentlemen spend their money in beauty and embellishment. One raises the edifice; the other ornaments the superstructure: one understands traffic; the other goes no further than pleasure. One retires with a fortune with a view to improve it; the other possesses an estate which at best he leaves as he found it; one is bold, the other timid; one cautious, the other negligent. In short, which is saying every thing, one earns, the other inherits.

The first description applies in almost all instances to GLASGOW; the latter, with but few exceptions, to EDINBURGH; and the consequence is that a genial and luminating comfort is widely irradiated by one, and a chill and weak glimmer faintly emitted by the other; and thus, while EDINBURGH is the prime seat of science, medicine, and jurisprudence; GLASGOW is the source of industry, enterprize, and wealth. But it will be quite time enough to enlarge upon this subject on a description of my second tour to the north, when I shall take up more diffusively the different subjects which compose the character, the honour, and the fortune of SCOTLAND and its inhabitants.

On Sunday the twelfth of May, I had the pleasure with my family of dining with you, at which time you did me the great pleasure of introducing me to Professor MILLER, whose name I had warmly flattered myself should have graced this work as one of my correspondents. Unfortunately for me, and more for those who knew him better, and by whom as well as the profession and the college he ornamented, he will be long and worthily lamented, he is now no more. How vainly we count upon life! How agile and alert he was two years years ago! His health and spirits seemed to defy time. I have not the honour to know his successor, even by name. May he equal his merits and his virtues! If report be faithful, he cannot excel them.

At that time you were meditating the publication of your tour. In the course of this work, you will see my opinion of it. It is not fit that I tell it to you. Heaven knows my opinion is of no great consequence; it will be found, however, to have the merit of sincerity, which is something. Having only upon this occasion taken a single peep at Loch Lomond from CAMERON, I cannot speak of it here, for it is a subject not to be mutilated. I shall only say, therefore, that I was wonder-struck; and, had I not taken its effect on paper upon the spot, it never would have gone out of my mind. A print of it will come here. It was a hazy noon, of that particular kind which brings objects more into view, and gives them their own appropriate tint to greater perfection than a clearer atmosphere; a doctrine which I could never believe till I was taught it at DEAL, where, when the day has been bright and free from vapour, they wait till the evening's mists begin to arise before they can plainly see the coast of FRANCE; and then, not only the shapes of the cliffs, but the chalky hue of their faces are easily discernable. This was the case of BEN LOMOND, which, though at that place eighteen miles off, appeared as if you could hit it with an arrow.

For the sake of my English readers, I think I ought not to omit a brief description, since I can give it no more, of the washing ground at GLASGOW, and particularly because I have seen no account of it in any book, not even in yours. This is as it should be; your researches are principally for the scientific, mine for the world; you write to instruct, I to amuse; you look up to your objects, I am sometimes obliged to stoop for mine. I know that you have accomplished your task; it is yet to be seen whether I shall be so fortunate as to accomplish mine.

This washing ground, which is a meadow on the banks of the Clyde, and ornamented with very beautiful trees to a prodigious extent, is the promenade of GLASGOW, where on a Sunday are displayed in various garments, as white as blossoms, those cottons and linens, which during the week are rendered so by the industry of the washerwomen upon the same spot, which operation is thus accomplished. At convenient distances stand two large buildings, each I think forming a quadrangle, and furnished internally with a kind of piazza, which leaves an opening in the centre, where is fixed an immense copper; this copper,

by means of a regular supply, and a constant fire, is at all times full of water sufficiently hot for the purpose of washing linen.

Tubs in all directions are brought here, and supplied with water; and, so numerous are the washerwomen, that they spread over the meadow, even farther than the eye can reach. The methods used to wash the linen are different; some beat it with kind of staves, in the nature of the French *battoise*, some use the common English method, and some fairly get into the tub and trample it. This last method is very common in many parts of SCOTLAND; and, in particular, I have seen it used by numbers of women, two in a tub, for the purpose of fulling woollen cloth, which I shall explain more at large in the second volume.

In this business of washing on a fine day, one would think all the servants belonging to GLASGOW were employed. Each hires a tub for, I believe, fourpence, and, what with the labour, the opportunity of rincing the linen in the Clyde, which forms in this spot a most beautiful object, and bleaching it on the grass, which last is facilitated by watering it with kind of garden water pots, nothing can be of a more dazzling whiteness than the linens and cottons worn at GLASGOW. Lodgers and strangers have their washing done by the regular washerwomen belonging to the ground; and thus is this necessary operation performed cheaper and better than any where else, not excepting any part of FRANCE, where they not only wash linen for almost nothing, but, English linen in particular, beat it all to pieces.

I have already gone so much at length on the subject of servants, in a letter to my friend KING, that it would be improper to agitate it here again; nor do I think I am warranted to reason through the medium of an opinion, so superficially formed, on a subject of so much importance in another kingdom. I cannot, however, help noticing that this promiscuous intercourse between all the servants of a large town, procured by their frequenting this washing ground, is very likely to be of much domestic inconvenience. There must be some bad subjects among them, and a continual mixture of manners can finish in nothing but contamination, like the water they wash with, which is pure and transparent

at first, but in the end becomes thick and polluted, and is then thrown away. Contagion may communicate disease, but I never yet heard of any confluent means of communicating health.

As I have now but a scanty space left me in this volume for an account of the circuitous journey I took before I reached LONDON, I must be brief; which is of little consequence, because in my second northern tour, in which I shall speak of SCOTLAND more diffusively, I again visited EDINBURGH and GLASGOW. Having returned to EDINBURGH on the fifteenth of May, I remained there till the following Sunday, and then took my departure for ENGLAND.

I passed through the memorable village of TRANENT, and dined at HADDINGTON, in my way to which place I passed some very highly cultivated ground. The church is half a ruin, like a man who has had a paralytic stroke. There are several handsome estates in this neighbourhood. There is an excellent corn market. It was at this place, during a siege of the town in 1540, that a parliament was held, which gave consent to Queen MARY'S marriage with the Dauphin, and to her being educated at the Court of FRANCE, where she imbibed that levity which was the cause of all her troubles. This, among other historical circumstances, is sure to be told you at HADDINGTON, and it is impossible not to learn that in a house in GIFFARD GATE, was born the famous reformer JOHN KNOX.

Onwards to DUNBAR the land is still richer; the fields of clover, in which they fatten sheep for the markets more to the south, and particularly that at MORPETH, is the richest I ever saw. The sheep actually wallow in it like pigs. The land in places round HADDINTON lets for four pounds an acre, but I suppose this which I now speak of must be considerably dearer. It has the advantage of being light and rich, and its produce is the earliest in SCOTLAND. The land continued to wear this face from DUNBAR for several miles towards BERWICK, which is certainly a beautiful ride, on account of its being so frequently open to the sea, where the trading vessels are constantly passing and repassing, some of which are bound to BERWICK, others to the Harbour of DUNBAR, which was formed by CROMWELL out of a solid rock, and others to LEITH.

BERWICK is a curious place, taken in every sense of the word. The dialect used by the people, which I shall hereafter notice, in a letter upon dialects in general, more particularly is a mixture of broad scotch and the NEWCASTLE bur. The people consider themselves either English or Scotch, or neither or both, just as it suits their convenience. When I was there, they were seriously debating, as I was informed, whether they should pay the triple assessment tax or not, because the usual notice of the town of BERWICK UPON TWEED had not been, according to custom, inserted in the act of parliament. How they settled it I never learnt. I fancy I left the question undecided; when, on Wednesday the twenty second of May, I crossed the venerable bridge over the Tweed, which separates ENGLAND from SCOTLAND, and where I shall, for the present, take my leave of you with many thanks for your attention and kindness.

Yours, my dear sir,
with great sincerity,
and most perfect esteem,

Leicester-Place,

Oct. 30th, 1801.

C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XLI.

BOARDING SCHOOLS.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR AND KIND FRIEND,

I AM now going to examine a subject of so much importance, that it involves in it a serious display of those remote causes from which arises almost every violation of our natural and social duties; but, as nothing ought to be more sacredly respected than the motives of our conduct on this subject, through which, however, we lavish large sums of money to purchase anxiety, though the case requires firm and fearless investigation, it is impossible to proceed with too much delicacy; which will be allowed me when it is seen that boarding schools are the evil I mean to expose.

I shall hereafter have plenty of opportunity to describe those seminaries for boys and young men, which, considered in the light of public establishments, and as repositories of literature, are an honour and a blessing to an enlightened nation; yet from whence, I am afraid, genius too often emancipates, blunted and distorted, and dulness incorrigible. At present, out of regard to those tender minds, on the right inclinations of which depend, to so interesting a degree, the happiness of society, I shall speak of feminine seminaries, which, however they may operate as an ordeal to try and prove virtue and goodness, that from

their own purity cannot be contaminated, and are therefore obnoxious to no corruption, disseminate in nine instances out of ten such principles as eradicate from the female heart those delicate and dutiful feelings, without which women can never make good wives or good mothers.

I rail not at institutions; I only inveigh against abuses. In this instance, however, I cannot but consider the whole foundation as faulty. I am not to learn that there are boarding schools kept by ladies excellently well qualified for the task, who unite, to both the knowledge and practice of decorum, sound judgment and unwearied industry, though I will not allow that this very often happens; but if we were to admit that it always obtains, we have not yet a sufficient guarantee for a child's morals, whatever we may have for her instruction. The promiscuous society of from thirty to sixty girls of different ages, tempers, and, let me add, principles, ought to make a tender mother tremble for the safety of her daughter.

Let us examine how this arises. A girl at ten years of age is brought to a boarding school. In the course of a week she is privately initiated, the principles of which ceremony are revolt and disobedience. She is confided to one of the larger girls, in order to take off trouble from the governess and the teacher, and denominated her child; she is from that moment made her confidante; she is sworn to a guilty secrecy; and, delighted with the womanly task of listening to stories of that love which she longs to be sixteen, that she may indulge in herself. She next becomes an emissary; delivers messages and letters, watches lest the lover should be surprised, and locks up all the billets doux in her box, to avert suspicion. Thus is the root of all rational instruction cut up in her for ever; for, having learned this lesson, she has neither leisure nor inclination to attend to any other. Let the governess be what she may, all this may be done without her knowledge; for it is notorious that, by this very means, young ladies have eloped from boarding schools, against the conductors of which it has been impossible for detraction itself to attach any improper imputation.

If then, with the best conduct and the best intentions, all this may be done; if this system of cunning and trick is not only common but invariable; if the se-

cret regulations are to contemn instruction and laugh at instructors; the tender and pliable mind will infallibly take an improper bias, and vain will be every wish, and fruitless every exertion. Pride may induce the attainment of some trivial accomplishment; but such pride is founded on vanity, which flatters the passions, and therefore connives at immorality; not a conception of all which would have been entertained but for this promiscuous intercourse.

But what shall we say of boarding schools, for such there are, where the principals are so obnoxious to reproof themselves, that they dare not reprove their scholars; where they have a fellow feeling with all the teachers; where they share in the quarterly payments and the entrance; nay, I met with one instance in this very tour of a governess, who threatened "to turn away," her own words, a man of considerable professional eminence, because he thought it hard to give her up the whole of his entrance money. But this is only a sample. Nothing escapes them, even to the very apothecary, who must not only come down with a perquisite, but must magnify vapours, and love-sick whims, into indisposition, that young ladies may take occasoinal airings, four in a coach, that the parents may be charged the price of four coaches. If the scholars are permitted to go to the play, the miserable country manager is obliged to accommodate them at half price, that the whole may be put in the bill; and these are a small part of those various abuses which swell the nominal forty pounds a year to perhaps ninety.

Let us examine more closely of what this promiscuous intercourse at boarding schools consists, if it were only to shew how parents deceive themselves who fancy they send their daughters there to keep them apart from their inferiors. Farmers daughters, left-handed off-sets of chambermaids, who connive at the intrigues of their ladies, and sit down to the same banquet after their superiors have dined, the children of prostitutes by profligate sons, who defraud their fathers, and many others of this motley description, are to be found in boarding schools, who, in early infancy, when the mind is most open and exposed to weak and dangerous impressions, imbibe either the vulgarity, or the cunning, or the infamy of their parents; qualities which, in riper years, are rendered fixed and constitutional.

Were all these affections kept apart and within their own bourn, they would only move in a limited sphere of action; but, by coming in contact with innocence and simplicity, after a certain degree of communicated contagion, they form into a system of worldly conduct, in which art, design, and hypocrisy, are inevitably called in to cover the influence of illicit propensities; and hence, when they emancipate, extravagance, bankruptcies, intrigues, and divorces. A precious vortex in which to plunge youth and inexperience! A charming little girl, at that time about four years old, who had a shrewdness beyond any thing I ever knew for her age, seemed to dread this very consequence. Charmed as I always was at her remarks, which were a mixture of keenness and drollery, "What a "pity," said I, one day, "that you should ever lose any of this honest simpli-"city! but I am afraid it will be entirely gone when you have been some time at "a boarding school." "I believe it will, indeed," said she, "among a bushel "of young ladies."

If it should be objected, that at this rate human beings can never mix; my answer is, that the objection does not apply. Let minds be informed and fortified, and then, but not till then, let them be trusted in society. If it be an invariable fact, which it certainly is, that girls, and boys too, who listen and attend, imbibe a much larger portion of good sense and solid information, than those who force themselves into conversation, to the exposition of their ignorance and inexperience, how much more likely it is that tender minds should, by this regulation, receive their proper store of valuable intelligence; that their affections and their feelings should tend to the accomplishment of their duty towards their friends; and thus, that the whole bearing of their conduct should move in that circle of rational acquirement by which alone they can hope to become valuable to their families, and by that claim entitled to the admiration of society. "I "am silent," said the young Spartan, "that I may improve by the conversation "of others."

I will do children the justice to say that, in the outset, no possible blame can attach to them; and if, upon opening their eyes to a species of craft and cunning they could not have imbibed at home, they are drawn away by extraneous

feelings and affections, they have to thank those parents who send them to boarding-schools, not so much to polish and refine their manners, as to get them out of the way. When girls and their mothers are inseperable companions, they are generally the best friends in the world; nor is there in nature a sight so winning and delightful to all those who are sober and contemplative; whereas absence in youth destroys all the value of that filial obligation which it is an inestimable treasure to preserve, and which it is peculiarly the duty of a mother to insure.

The first principle which can induce a hope that a girl stands a tolerable chance of prospective happiness, is a love and veneration of those rational pleasures which she inhales among her relations. Let these be refined and embellished with all my heart! but let them be the foundation of her expectations. If her accomplishments are purchased by her parents, her gratitude to them ought to be beyond all bounds, for, if they are rich, this education so purchased, fits her for the enjoyment of her fortune, and teaches her to dispense it worthily; if, on the contrary, they have paid with pleasure for her accomplishments what they had earned with difficulty, how much stronger yet is their claim to her gratitude.

All this is as clear as truth—How melancholy then to reflect that hundreds, nay thousands, have been lavished away to destroy this honourable obligation. The natural exclamation is, what pity that so beautiful a chain should be forged out of materials of so brittle a texture! but let us examine the subject fairly, and the reverse is the fact. The construction of this security is strong, tempered, and adhesive; but what is there that art and industry cannot corrode? Hypocrisy puts on to the eye of inexperience the garb of morality. Art and assiduity appear like love and attention, and thus shall a fortune-hunter elope with a boarding-school miss, having first quieted the conscience of her teacher, by a purse, some right Nantz, and a new homily.

To put the subject in another light, let us suppose that every thing is done for the advantage of the scholars, and every method taken, as far as such an institution will permit, to perfect them in those studies they are intended to pursue. What will be the operation? I am afraid, with the best examples, neither young

PAGE NO- 349 TO 352 MISSING IN ORIGINAL

LETTER XLII.

A CIRCUIT AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

In my last letter addressed to my warm and kind friend Dr. GARNETT, whose unaffected kindness and steady attention, however I may feel it, I will not do him the injustice to attempt at describing, I bade a temporary adieu to SCOTLAND; and, looking now at the matter in hand, as the printers call it, I find that I have but little more than forty pages for the description of what passed during a circuitous route of nearly six hundred miles from BERWICK to my own house; and, as the portion of paper yet to come in this volume would be very inadequate to the contents of the subject, were I to discharge my duty of a tourist properly, which I hope to do in the course of my work, it will be more advantageous to my readers, and of course to myself, that I should mention at length, and with any stress, only those counties to which I shall have no future opportunity of paying another visit.

Abiding by this determination, I shall simply notice such circumstances relative to NORTHUMBERLAND and YORKSHIRE as cursorily struck me at that time, reserving material observations till I have more advantageous occasion to mention them in my Tour of 1800; for were not every thing that can give interest or beget at-

tention relative to these counties, YORKSHIRE in particular, described with some care and precision, the omission would cause a chasm highly disadvantageous to a work like this.

From BERWICK I arrived at ALNWICK, with its beautiful vicinity and magnificent castle, on the twenty-third of May, by which time, and not before, there began to be something like an appearance of summer, for no such thing had manifested itself till then during my whole tour; and in my description of SCOTLAND it will be noticed that I speak of the general fertility of the country, rather as a thing of which it is capable, and which the evidence of my senses fully confirmed afterwards, than as a sample of what I then saw; but indeed the same might have been then said of ENGLAND, for perhaps there never was a backwarder spring, and the snow which lay upon the mountains in WESTMORELAND and SCOTLAND was kept in countenance by that which, at the time I am speaking of, lay in great abundance on the Cheviot Hills. This digression, however, is not altogether material; but I thought it necessary to say so much, lest the uncandid might fancy they had caught me tripping.

I arrived at MORPETH the next day, and staid there only about twenty hours; when I left it, and its astonishing cattle-market, and sweet and picturesque neighbourhood, for NEWCASTLE, where, receding at every step from the beauties of nature, I arrived among the wonders of art on the Saturday. I took a view of NORTH SHIELDS on Tuesday the twenty-eighth, returned to NEWCASTLE on the same night, and left it for that time for SUNDERLAND on the next day; of all which places I shall hereafter have much to notice. At present, so much for NORTHUMBERLAND.

From SUNDERLAND I arrived at STOCKTON, in the county of DURHAM, on the Saturday, and at NORTHALLERTON, in YORKSHIRE, on the Sunday. I drank the KING'S health on his birth-day at the house of a kind friend at YORK, with whom we remained six days. At YORKSHIRE I am at home. I don't mean to hint as to any particular cunning; for, heaven knows, I have at most as little as my neighbours. I arrived on the tenth at LEEDS, and dined with a family I love and

value at WAKEFIELD on the twelfth. I may perhaps hereafter hint at some attention that was paid me at this place by a nobleman and his lady, and a similar honour I received from another noble pair at DONCASTER, where I took an old and kind friend by the hand on the fourteenth. I left DONCASTER for SHEFFIELD the next day, and there, for that time, I took my leave of YORKSHIRE.

I arrived at CHESTERFIELD on the sixteenth, an account of which place will come in my description of DERBYSHIRE, and on Monday I arrived at MANSFIELD, so that as this is the only opportunity I shall have to speak of NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, I shall now go on more leisurely, and attack my subjects in form.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, of which history has said much and tradition more, though not very large, is a county of consideration. It is bounded on the north by YORKSHIRE and the ISLE OF AXHOLM, in LINCOLNSHIRE, on the east by LINCOLNSHIRE, on the south by LEICESTERSHIRE, and on the west by DERBYSHIRE and a small part of YORKSHIRE. It extends in length from north to south about forty-five miles, in breadth, from east to west, about twenty, and its circumference is about a hundred and ten. It is divided into eight hundreds, or rather six wapentakes and two liberties. It lies in the province and diocese of YORK, has nine market towns, a hundred and sixty-eight parishes, and sends eight members to parliament.

Having no inclination to examine, whether the Coritani were the inhabitants of this county at the time of the Roman invasion, whether there is a military road called the Fosse Way, which enters from LEICESTERSHIRE and passes into LINCOLNSHIRE, or any of those particulars, as well handed down, as found in the Doomsday Book, where this place is called SNOTTINGAHAMSHIRE, I shall only say, that whatever they may have been formerly famous for, I fancy their ambition at present extends no further than weaving stockings and drinking ale.

The principal rivers in NOTTINGHAMSHIRE are the Trent, the Idle, or Iddle, and the Erwash. The Trent I have sufficiently described in my account of STAFFORDSHIRE. The Idle rises near MANSFIELD, and, running north-east, passes by EAST

RETFORD and BAWTRY, after which to the north-east it falls into the Dun, on the west side of the ISLE of AXHOLM in LINCOLNSHIRE. The Erwash rises in SHERWOOD FOREST, and after dividing a part of NOTTINGHAMSHIRE from DERBYSHIRE, falls into the Trent. The mineral waters of this county are neither numerous nor celebrated. There is one in the town of NOTTINGHAM, one at KINOLTON, and one at ORSTON.

The air of this county is clear and salubrious. The soil is generally either a heavy clay or a light sand, neither of which qualities are very favourable to vegetation singly. To the westward have been found mines of lead, and an excellent kind of pit coal. In this quarter also they get a stone, which they burn and reduce to powder, for the purpose of making plaster for flooring houses, especially the upper stories; but, indeed, nature has made no very extraordinary efforts in her embellishments of NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, which has hops, cattle, corn, and fresh water fish, but not in greater perfection than other counties.

NOTTINGHAM, which is said to have been built nine hundred and eighty years before the birth of CHRIST, and which stands upon an eminence called Dolorous Hill, from the great slaughter of the Britons by King HUMBER in the reign of ABBANACT, is to my knowledge a very dolorous place. A great deal has been said about the origin of mining in ENGLAND, and it has been insisted, qualified of course by some contradiction, that the Cornish Britons were very good miners before the Roman invasion. I think the clear sense of the thing is, that, as in consequence of incursions it was natural that the inhabitants should seek convevenient hiding places, especially for women and children, and all those that were sick and old, they found no more difficulty in procuring themselves these necessary excavations at any period, however early, otherwise we must be obliged to allow, which I don't chuse to do, a superior degree of sagacity to rabbits and beavers. Certainly the rock on which NOTTINGHAM Castle stands has been hollowed at different times, and for different purposes, in a most extraordinary manner, and this has given opportunity, according to custom, to the illuminati, who generally thicken in the clear, so to confound the business, that a man of plain sense can make nothing out of them.

males nor young females can be driven into learning. I remember when, upon a particular occasion, I recommended to that excellent scholar and admirable character, Mr. Bishop, the late worthy master of Merchant Taylor's school, a close attention to a young gentleman's education. "My dear sir," said he, "my "mode is to throw the learning I possess among the boys, to be scrambled for, "and of course those who are the most shrewd and the most alert will pick up "the largest portion." The argument is close and convincing. Some minds are not susceptible of learning, others are too indolent for it, and thus, in spite of the brightest talents and most assiduous care, dunces are to be found, not only at inferior schools, but at the universities.

If then this is the case with boys, who have only to learn Greek, Latin, and English, and whose ambition is, or ought to be more particularly called upon in the accomplishment of literary pursuits, what must it be with young ladies, who, in addition to English, French and Italian, have to perfect themselves in music, dancing, drawing, working embroidery, and half-a-dozen other studies, not forgetting geography, and the use of the globes.

Previous to an examination of what girls learn, or are likely to learn at boarding-schools, let us see who are the teachers, and how they are either qualified, or inclined to lead youthful minds, step by step, towards that perfection of mind and person requisite to accomplish their promise to the public; and, first, I am obliged to say that different opinions, persuasions, and practices, introduce schisms and their sectaries, and thus the explanation of one moral duty perplexes and confounds another.

Female teachers in general are those who have been soured and disappointed in the world, and who cannot bear to reflect that the talents and beauty which they flatter themselves they possess, should be only requited by neglect. Their conduct in return is squared by their dispositions. The injury, however, is never forgiven, and it must be revenged on somebody. If nothing worse than malignity be the predominate feeling, there is only to be apprehended a promulgation of all those bold principles and unsexual tenets, as they have been called

by a lady-writer, which teach infants to argue on the rights of men and women; but, if subtility and hypocrisy be super-added, children become enthusiasts, and finish by dissimulation what was begun in bigotry. I will venture to say that methodism has introduced, under the garb of sanctity, almost as much vice into schools as French dancing-masters, which will be I believe easily allowed by all who reflect, and who must tremble while they reflect, that Miss ROBERTSON of swindling notoriety was a teacher at a boarding-school.

The language-master is another dangerous member in this society; and, if the teacher be an antiquated virgin and a methodist, he is a foreigner and a roman-catholic, a circumstance particularly alarming since the introduction of French emigrants, who it is notorious, have not only endeavoured a great deal, but succeeded a great deal, in their indefatigable attempts at making converts, which I shall hereafter go into more at large. As to the dancing-master, and the music-master, they are seldom of any religion at all, but they are not the less mischievous for that. Indeed every one of these men, if they are of the thorough-bred kind, have their little designs. They invariably make love to the girls; nor are they much afraid of the consequence, knowing how completely they have the governesses in their power. The girls naturally, in the midst of this chaos of instruction, prefer that which is most flattering to their vanity, and they become, early enough, perfectly sensible how material it is to their pride to be considered in the light of Mr. BOWKIT's sweet little angels.

As to what can be acquired at boarding-schools, children are taught every thing, and therefore learn nothing, for in this mass of retrogade emulation, it is never considered that nothing will grow in a barren soil, and that all soils, however capable of partial cultivation, are not alike proper for all grain. There must not only be genius in the minds of those who may hope for instruction, but it must be that peculiar genius calculated for its peculiar pursuit. All minds, for all are in some degree intelligent, may imbibe something of what is necessary, generally, to be known, and so informed, may pass muster tolerably well in the world; when, however, intellects are no farther valuable, let them not in pity be tortured into that of which they can be never susceptible; but when

you come to an art, or a science, the disproportion between the mind and the labour would excite disgust, were it not for the intervention of compassion.

But what is learnt at these boarding schools? As to erudition, not one in a hundred returns home better qualified than to scrawl out a love letter, or copy from memory, a sonnet, or a passage in a romance, by the help of an abridged dictionary. As to French and Italian, they may pick up a few unconnected sentences; but a living language is not to be learnt at all, but in the country where it is spoken. The principles, or elements if you will, of dancing, are more easily acquired; but even at this they are never out of hand, and the variety of seminaries for the purpose of teaching grown people to dance, will vouch for me that dancing is as much a fashion as millenery, and that the step of to day becomes vulgar in a fortnight.

Music, or rather lesson playing, for this is all that is attempted at boarding-schools, is another precious business. It is impossible to become, with every adventitious advantage, a complete lesson player, unless three hours, perhaps I ought to say six, are devoted every day to practice; and in most boarding schools there is but one piano forte for the use of thirty girls. As to instruction, no girl gets more than half an hour in a week, therefore the very little they arrive at serves rather to confound than enlighten even those who possess genius; and, as to those who are void of it, let a smile at the motives of their parents conquer our reprobation of their absurdity in not keeping their money in their pockets.

As to geography, which is now so fashionable a study, suppose it to be known in its fullest extent, of what possible use can it be to a female, in proportion to those privations of which it must be the cause? but, as it is taught only superficially, it serves no better purpose than to expose ignorance; and thus you hear young ladies talk of ice islands under the line, and the extreme heat of Nova Zembla, followed up by a curious dissertation to prove that the world turns round upon its own axle-tree; and all this is not more pitiable than it is true. Drawing is another medium through which the paucity of talents in boarding-school misses is most miserably exposed, and for proof of this I have only to appeal to a

recollection of those monsters and nondescripts which decorate the drawing-rooms of their parents.

In short, accomplishment is the word; and, under that superficial idea, every thing is attended to that can attract, but nothing that can attach. The useful is out of the question, and the sweet is foisted on us, even to satiety. It was charmingly said by a lover to a young lady, whose manners were artificial, and whose genius was shrouded in accomplishment, "My dear girl, you have studied every "art but the art to please, and that you derive from nature." A father or a friend would perhaps have conveyed this sarcasm in harsher terms; and, indeed, though curbed and strait laced examples are not always to be insisted on, when one looks through the catalogue of fashionable levities, when one considers how youthful blood is heated and inflamed by pampered propensities, one cannot reject the satisfaction imparted by the tender solicitude of the old man, who, in a public assembly whisked off his daughter, for fear she should be whisked off by somebody else.

I conclude, therefore, by saying that there are female minds that exigencies can never warp, that situations can never alter; that weigh, that consider, that decide. These I leave to their own good sense, their conscious honour, their steady rectitude, and only insist that, take the general run of females, if you would have a girl superficially accomplished in every thing, without a radical knowledge of any thing, her simplicity contaminated, her affections estranged, her manners artificial, her mind unfeeling, her behaviour supercilious; in short, a perfect stranger to that social duty, by which alone she can hope to become an affectionate wife and a tender mother---send her to a boarding school.

Yours very faithfully,

Leicester-Place.

Nov. 10, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

PAGE NO- 361 TO 364 MISSING IN ORIGINAL

I believe all that need be said about the matter is, that as this town lies at a considerable distance from the road, and has therefore been a natural refuge against incursions, it has from a very early period, sustained great changes. We know, as circumstances which must have originated from this cause, that the court and the parliament have been occasionally holden there for safety, even as far back as RICHARD the First. We know, that in consequence of this, it imbibed every courtly vice, witness the execution of MORTIMER, for the tricks he played under cover of his too great familiarity with the Queen mother, in the reign of EDWARD the Third. In short, from these and other things, it certainly must have been a place of great tumult from remote times to the martyred CHARLES, who, also, there set up his standard. Fancying, however, that it had been awake long enough; it seems from that time to have fallen into a sound sleep, or rather apathy, the whole town nodding in concert, and by general consent, whether over their counters, their looms, or their ale. It is but justice, however, to say, that it is a large handsome place, that the market is well supplied, that the piazza has a very convenient and comfortable appearance, and the view from the castle is full of various and extensive beauty.

About seven miles from NOTTINGHAM, is the village of GOTHAM, celebrated ironically for its wise men; to support which stigma, they tell a number of stories of these harmless people; and among the rest, that, as they had heard the cuckoo and never seen it, they were at wonderful pains to hedge in a bush, from whence as it seemed, its note proceeded. This bush they pretend to shew to strangers; all which seems to be extremely witty in its way. For my part, I thought them a very inoffensive people, and in no respect stupider than the people at Nottingham.

MANSFIELD, of which a great deal is fabled, and little authenticated, was certainly a place of consequence, when the kings used to hunt in S ER OOD FOREST, the greatest part of which place is now gone to decay, and exhibits little more than a dreary waste MANSFIELD is a poor comfortless place. Several privileges have, according to the whims of different kings been given it, many of which are abolished, and it might not be amiss if the remainder were so to, though I do not

find that any have been established by more than custom, which has been so universally received, as in its operation to have been paramount to law. Among other absurd privileges, men and women might marry at any age. Heirs were considered at full age to inherit the moment they were born, and the lands were equally divided among the sons; and, if there were no sons among the daughters, like the buns upon Good Friday, which I think is a stretch beyond GAVELKIND in KENT, and BOROUGH ENGLISH in STAFFORD.

NEWARK, which is situated fourteen miles from NOTTINGHAM, is a clean handsome improving town, and seems to me to look more like the land of the living than any place in this county. The market place is very handsome and spacious. It is full of bustle, being in the great north road, and it boasts a vicinity full of spirit and importance.

I shall now take my leave of NOTTINGHAMSHIRE with a brief account of the principal vegetables to be found there, and the remarkable characters it has produced, both of which are few in number, and very inconsiderable in quality. The first consist of common fennel, wood-strawberries, whortleberries, violets, and meadow saffron, to which we may add, white wild catchfly, *lychnis sylvestris alba nonaclusii*, Alexander's *Hipposelinum sive smyrnium* and saffron coloured silken stone moss *Byssus aureus Derbiensis humifasus*; but none of these have any celebrated qualities, nor are they peculiar to this county.

As to great men, Archbishop CRANMER, that strange mixture of greatness and irresolution, whose history every body has by heart, was born in this county, and so was HOLLES, the first Earl of CLARE of that name, who was a great man, but he had his fluctuations too; and to these I have only to add, the brother of the last mentioned person, Bishop CHAPPEL, and LIGHTFOOT the Commentator, and thus I end my account of NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, which, though short, may not please my readers the less on that account.

Leicester-Place, Yours very truly,

Nov. 13, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

	Bingham	Mansfield	Newark	Nottingham	Retford	Southall	Tuxford	Workfop	London
Bligh to	40	20	24	31	12	31	19	6	153
Bingham to		23	14	9	34	23	27	36	105
Thurs. Mansfield to			18	14	29	12	22	12	136
* † Wed. Newark to				20	20	7	13	22	78
* † W. & S. Nottingham to					40	14	33	26	126
† Sat. Retford to						27	7	19	139
Southall to							20	22	125
M. Tuxford to								10	136
Wed. Worksop to									141

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

A table of distances in NOTTINGHAMSHIRE. Corporation Towns, governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *; boroughs thus †; the market towns have the initials of the days placed against them.

The members for the county are to be added.

LETTER XLIII.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

It is next my proper business to give an account of Lincolnshire, but, as I passed into Rutlandshire, and it would render my work imperfect were I to omit any single county, however inferior it might be, I shall merely say a few preparatory words concerning this. Rutlandshire is shut into a very small nook by the counties that surround it, which are Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire. It is only fifteen miles in length, thirteen in breadth, and measures no more than forty miles in circumference. It is divided into five hundreds, but has no city, and only contains two market towns, which are Okeham and Uppington. It is in the province of Canterbury and diocese of Peterborough, and contains forty-eight parishes, but has no borough, and only sends to parliament the two members for the county.

There are no rivers that rise in this county, nor do I find that it has any mineral springs of celebrity. It is, however, furnished with all the necessaries of life, and is well cultivated, and very healthy. The Valley of Catmose has always been spoken of in terms of great pleasure. It is a kind of little Esham. The town of Okeham stands in this vale, which gives it a picturesque appearance.

UPPINGHAM, standing upon higher ground, has its advantages too; and indeed this county in miniature unites more pleasurable and profitable objects than many other counties which look larger upon the map. I do not find either vegetable or animal productions in RUTLANDSHIRE that merit particular attention. I shall therefore now beg you to attend to LINCOLNSHIRE, which a foreigner has not improperly called LITTLE HOLLAND.

That I may follow the course of my tour, it will be proper here to say that I left CHESTERFIELD for MANSFIELD on the eighteenth of June; on the twentieth I arrived at NEWARK, and on the next day I sat myself down at STAMFORD. I shall therefore stop here to give a general account of LINCOLNSHIRE, and also to speak particularly of those places, which, though I did not visit them upon this occasion, I had formerly an opportunity of knowing intimately.

LINCOLNSHIRE is a large and an opulent county. Its situation is maritime, and attended, in consequence of its lying low, and in the vicinity of the sea, with a number of such peculiar circumstances as require a description something at length. Nature has formed it into three divisions, consisting of so many tracts of elevated land, called the South Heath, the North Heath, and the Woulds. Round and between these three hills run several rivers, and from the obstruction of these, on account of their banks being low and level, is formed what are called the Fens.

The South Heath reaches directly north and south from STAMFORD to within a mile of LINCOLN. It is forty-six miles in length and four in breadth. The edge of this heath to the west is principally a steep cliff, and the towns upon this ridge are called the CLIFF ROW. It slopes away gradually eastward to the Fens, which lie on the Welland and the Witham; and there is another row of towns upon its edge next to the Fens. The North Heath extends in the same direction to WINTERINGHAM on the Trent. The western edge of this heath is also a cliff; but it is remarkable that, contrary to the management on the South Heath, the houses, on the north, stand at the foot of the cliff. This heath slopes away east of the fens, which lie about the river Akham. The Woulds form a tract of land that stretch north

by west from SPILSBY, which is about eleven miles north of BOSTON, to BARTON on the Humber, and are thus about forty miles long and eight miles broad.

Between these hills lie of course the fens; through the first runs the river Witham from GRANTHAM to LINCOLN. The land is a moor. The second is a moorish tract between LINCOLN and the Trent. The remainder are drowned lands on the banks of the Ankham, which are said to be capable of being turned into the finest lands in the kingdom; but which advantage has hitherto been prevented by the litigation of individuals. They are a tract of ground gained from the sea, and banked sufficiently firm to prevent any inundation.

In the banks are fixed sluices that have folding doors pointed to the sea. These are so constructed, that they let out the fresh water when the tide is down, and yet prevent an influx from the sea when it rises; besides which, the whole of this land is drained by artificial canals, and by these means it wears a continual appearance of rich vegetation. A very long and curious account might be given in addition to these particulars; the utmost, however, that it is in my power to add, will be a few words concerning the washes, which are by no means dangerous, though such terrible things have been related of them. There are only two of them, however, which are safe, and these are called the Fosse Dyke wash, and the Cross Keys wash; but it would be imprudent to venture even in these without a guide.

For six hours at a time, in every twenty-four, during the recesses of the tide, these washes are fordable; but, during each intermediate six hours, they are washed with the flux of the ocean, which forms a kind of bay. Formerly, as we are told, passengers travelled over the long wash, between LYNN and BOSTON; but if this ever happened, it must have been at a very distant period, for we are told, that KING JOHN lost all his carriages among the creeks and quick sands, and a part of this passage near LYNN is therefore called KING'S CORNER.

LINCOLNSHIRE is of considerable extent. It is bounded on the north by the estuary of the Humber, which separates it from YORKSHIRE, on the east by the

German Ocean, on the south by the Counties of CAMBRIDGE, NORTHAMPTON, and RUTLAND, and on the west by LEICESTERSHIRE and NOTTINGHAMSHIRE. It is divided into three provinces; LINDSEY, which is subdivided into seventeen wapentakes or hundreds; KESTEVEN, which contains ten wapentakes or hundreds; and HOLLAND, which includes three wapentakes or hundreds. In addition to the city of LINCOLN, there are in this county thirty-one market towns. It lies in the province of CANTERBURY, and diocese of LINCOLN, contains six hundred and thirty parishes, and sends twelve members to parliament.

The principal rivers in LINCOLNSHIRE are the Trent, the Welland, the Dun, the Witham, and the Ankham. The Trent and the Welland I have already described. The Dun rises in Yorkshire, and inclosing together with the Trent a large piece of land, distinguished by the name of the ISLE of AXHOLM, falls into the Trent near its conflux with the Humber. The Witham rises at POST WITHAM, near GRANTHAM, passes by LINCOLN, and falls into the washes near BOSTON. The Ankham rises to the north of LINCOLN; and, after taking a curve to the south east, turns to the north, and pursuing that course falls into the Humber to the east of the Trent.

LINCOLNSHIRE has mineral springs at CAWTORP, near BOURN, at WALCOT, PECKWORTH, NEWTON, and ASERBY; but we hear but little of their particular virtues. The soil of this county is in many places very fruitful. It produces corn very abundantly, and the pastures are rich and fattening, witness the LINCOLNSHIRE oxen that have been shewn in LONDON for money. The fen geese are only to be matched by the NORFOLK turkies, and for rabbits I should suppose there is no such county in the world. I have seen them by hundreds in the market at LINCOLN, in numbers of large lots strung upon poles and each of them borne by two men. I speak of what I saw fifteen years ago, at which time I dined where they were brought to table roasted, boiled, fricassed, and made into pies; and I understood that even the poor regaled upon them, they were so cheap.

This county is also remarkable for fine dogs, particularly greyhounds, mastiffs, and a water dog, bred up to drive ducks into the decoys. These decoys ought to be described. They are large ponds dug in the fens, and serve as heads to a number

of rivers formed for the purpose, which narrow gradually to a point. Their banks are well planted with willows, sallows, oziers, and other kinds of underwood, and into these the fowls are enticed by ducks trained up to this sport. These are so tame, that they feed out of the hand; and it is absurdly supposed, that, out of gratitude for this kind treatment, they frequently take long flights and return in the company of various other birds, which come upon their invitation as so many sacrifices, and therefore they are called decoy ducks. The simple fact is, that they invite their friends to places where they have fared well themselves; and, so far from having any thing treacherous in their conduct, they are the dupes; for, having been frequently caught and liberated, they cannot have any apprehension that any thing sinister can happen to their companions.

The decoy-man no sooner perceives these flocks settled in the pond, than he secretly repairs to the angles of the rivulet before described, under cover of hedges made with reeds. Then he deposits corn and other food about, in such places as the decoy ducks are acquainted with, and to which they of course flock, followed by the strangers. In this manner they are entertained for several days, without any disturbance, the bait being sometimes thrown in one situation, and sometimes in another, till they are insensibly led into the narrow canals of the ponds, where the trees on each side hang over head like an arbor, at a considerable height however. The boughs of these trees are managed with such art, that a large net is spread near their tops, and fastened to hoops which reach from side to side, till the net narrows gradually to a point, like a purse, at the distance of sometimes three hundred yards from its mouth, which is of prodigious extent.

The decoy ducks knowing that the narrower the rivulet gets, the more food will be found, encourage their companions to follow them till they are all under the sweep of the net. When the decoy-man finds that they are all within the net, that it may be impossible for them to recede, he lets slip a dog taught for the purpose, who makes directly into the net, and drives them on. They now take the alarm, and endeavour to fly, but are continually beat down by the net, which prevents them from penetrating between the branches of the trees, so that the place they have taken for an asylum proves their destruction. Thus, partly

swimming and partly flying to escape the dog, they hurry forward till they fall into the purse and become a prey to the decoy-man. This over, the decoy ducks are restored to liberty, and sent to entice others, and all this is done with so little disturbance, that the ducks in the great pond are not alarmed, but await patiently the same fate from the same process. The produce is of course immense. I am told that a single decoy pond lets for five hundred pounds a year.

I was informed of many other things relative to these ducks and other birds, which I really was not quite goose enough to believe; one of them, however, is so curious, that I shall mention it, leaving the reader at liberty to exercise whatever opinion the circumstance may happen to suggest. What I allude to is the manner of catching a bird considered as a great delicacy, called the dottarel. This creature is said, in a most remarkable manner, to imitate the actions of the fowler, for, if he stretches his arm, the bird will stretch out its wing, and, if he puts forward his leg towards the bird, the action is answered by the bird's putting forward one of his legs towards him, by which means they approach nearer and nearer to each other till the intervention of a net finishes the courtesy.

If this be a fact, I think there can be little doubt of the efficacy of animal magnetism. All the objections to the metallic tractors vanished when the people found they were a sovereign remedy for spavens and wind galls, and the reputation of LAVATER received its highest polish, from a firm conviction that he had carried his penetration to such perfection as to arrive at a complete knowledge of all the animal feelings and passions, by contemplating the phisiognomy of a cock-chafer. What species of fascination this may be called, I cannot stop now to enquire, otherwise it might not be amiss to digress a little on the subject of sympathy. If it can be turned to any advantage to those who think that the operation of bodily physic is nearly at an end, and that the only way now of curing complaints is to administer to diseased minds, which SHAKESPEAR tells us is impossibile, I have no doubt of the practicability of seeing it reduced to a system, and pompously announced in the newspapers; but, as this will require a good deal of digestion, both in the projector and the public, I think it might in the

interim do something on the stage, where decoy ducks have, at times, cut no inconsiderable figure. It might be a grand pantomime, taken from some legend in the archives of LINCOLNSHIRE, in which might be introduced the diversions of the decoy ducks, and the dance of the dottarel. I think it would succeed better than the *pas de russe*, if it were only for the novelty. We have had dancing bears and dancing dogs; but dancing birds are a cut above any thing yet brought forward. We have seen them fly indeed, but that's natural; and who now-a-days is so vulgar or so unfashionable as to be delighted with the beauties of nature.

STAMFORD, where I arrived the twenty-first of June, is a large, and, I believe, a rich town. It had once fourteen churches, at present it has only seven; but to make up in number, if not in value, there are plenty of meeting-houses. The inhabitants of this town have extraordinary privileges, and, among other things, are exempted from the authority of all lords lieutenants: thus the mayor, being his own lord lieutenant, and immediately under the authority of the king, he is esteemed, within the liberties and jurisdiction of the town, the second man in the kingdom. This authority does not appear to have been sufficient to awe the multitude in the time of RICHARD the First, when the inhabitants, influenced by bigotry and superstition, massacred so many Jews. STAMFORD stands in a fine sporting country, and is surrounded by a number of gentlemen and noblemen's seats.

About eight miles from STAMFORD is MARKET DEEPING, and about six to the east of that town is CROWLAND, neither which places I saw, simply because the roads at that time were impassable, though in the midst of summer. It must therefore be a miserable thing to reside in many parts of this county. At DEEPING it is considered as very aguish, and so it must be at CROWLAND, which place is built on piles, and separated by water courses, and the cattle is obliged to be kept at such a distance, that they go in boats to milk their cows. SPALDING is in the same predicament, as far as it relates to swamps, and so is HOLBECK, and SLEAFORD is but little better.

BOSTON, situated thirty-seven miles south-east of LINCOLN, and a hundred and fourteen north of LONDON, is built on both sides of the river Witham. It has long been a flourishing town, and, according to the custom of giving their magistrates great privileges in this county, the mayor of BOSTON is chief clerk of the market, and admiral of the coast. The church, with its lofty tower and elevated lantern, the top of which is three hundred feet from the ground, is not only very handsome, but very useful; for it serves as a guide to mariners on entering LYNN and BOSTON deeps. A brisk inland and foreign trade is carried on here; and, as the land all round the vicinity consists of rich fattening marshy grass, a prodigious number of oxen and sheep are fed on it.

Twelve miles from BOSTON is TATTERSHALL, a town formerly of some consequence, but now gone to decay, as the remains of the castle and a tower, of which the walls measure from fifteen to twenty feet thick, and reach in height two hundred feet, the only vestige of the cathedral, sufficienly prove. HORN CASTLE is within sixteen miles of LINCOLN. It is a large, but an uncomfortable town, and almost surrounded with water. A great number of historical particulars are related of the villages in this neighbourhood; they have little authenticity, however, and less interest. BOLLINBROKE, WAYNHAM, and other places on this part of the fens, are so alike in situation, and in almost every other respect, that the description of one would serve for all, for they are all in appearance singular, and in situation unhealthy.

On the east side of the Woulds, extended along the sea shore, we find ASFORD, a small obscure town; and eleven miles to the south-west is LOUTH, which is rather a populous place, and tolerably well built. SALTFLEET is a little market town, seated on the German Ocean, about seven miles from LOUTH; and, thirteen miles north-west of SALTFLEET is GRIMSBY, which is said to have been the first or second corporation town in ENGLAND. It has been a large place, and had once a considerable trade; but the harbour has been long choaked up, and the vessels now come into the road, which is still a place of safety, not to wait for a cargo, but a fair wind. Through a small town or two more, and some villages, you at length get to BARTON, situated at the northern extremity of the Woulds, near the mouth of the

Humber; thirty-five miles from LINCOLN, aud a hundred and sixty-three from LONDON. It is a small uncomfortable place, and calculated for little more than to afford accommodation, though heaven knows sorry accommodation it is, to those passengers who cross that ferry from HULL, in which ANSON, after he had sailed round the world, had very nearly been drowned.

BURTON, twenty-eight miles to the north of LINCOLN, is called BURTON STRATHER, I supposed to distinguish it from BURTON in STAFFORDSHIRE, for they are both situated on the Trent. The intermixture of houses, trees, and mills, diversified by the windings of the river, has a very curious effect. AXHOLM, which I have already described as being made into an island by an union of the Trent, the Dun, and the Idle, is in extent about ten miles by five. It is almost entirely, however waste land. Some have conjectured that it was formerly a number of rocky hills, crushed into one mass by some convulsion of nature, for minerals have been discovered in situations denoting confusion, and in the moorish parts have been found very large fir trees, which seem to have fallen from a height, and been buried in some tremendous concussion.

GAINSBOROUGH is not a large, but certainly it is a bustling, and rather an opulent place, owing principally to the trade it carries on by means of the Trent, which brings up vessels of considerable burden from the Humber, though at the distance of forty miles. GRANTHAM is seated on the river Witham, twenty-two miles to the south of LINCOLN. It is in the great north road, and therefore has some spirit; for the rest, there are many elegant families in its neighbourhood, and it is upon the whole rather a genteel than a rich town. I was told, when I was there thirteen years ago, that in the charnel-house, which appeared to be a large handsome building, may be seen between fifteen-hundred and two-thousand skulls, piled up in great order in rows one above another, and completely bleached. By the way, I did not see the skulls, nor could I learn whether they belonged to the former inhabitants, who had the kindness to leave these legacies as an emolument for the sexton, or by what other means they were deposited there,

I only heard it as an undoubted fact to which I was required to give implicit faith.*

LINCOLN is situated on the side of a steep hill, which makes a part of the north heath. This city, as we are informed, had once fifty-two parishes, and one thousand and seventy-one houses of entertainment. If so, it is certainly fallen very much to decay. The effect of its situation from the hill is wonderful, and the clergy, who are very numerous there, seem to have placed themselves upon as high a pinnacle as possible, with a view I hope, to evince, how idle to them are all the vain pomp and glory of this world. The cathedral is a most beautiful building. It is very large, completely Gothic, built upon a simple though stupendous plan; and though it has all the stability and adhesion of a rock, it looks as if you could blow it away.

The character of the LINCOLN manners seems to be a constant internal enmity, and a remarkable shyness to strangers, to whom therefore they always seem ridiculous and capricious. The real occasion of so much singularity is, that this city is composed of a high and a low town, which are perpetually at variance with each other, I cannot explain this better than by saying that if there was a play-house at LINCOLN, it must be in one of the following predicaments. If it was situated on the hill it would be all boxes, if under the hill all gallery, and if in the mid way all pit; and, therefore, as a playhouse cannot subsist but by the union of boxes, pit, and gallery, I should apprehend fortunes are not acquired by theatrical performances at LINCOLN.

It is extraordinary enough that, calculated as this county is on account of the novel complexion of the soil, for extraneous vegetation, Sea orach, which I have already mentioned, Common carraways, *carum vulgare*; chickweed, knot-grass, in some degree like what we call ladies-pockets, that sort of nurse hemp

* As a companion for this circumstance, there is at HYTHE in KENT, as I was informed, a prodigious number of bones piled up, and supposed to have belonged to some of those who fell in one of those battles, which ensured to WILLIAM the Norman the conquest of ENGLAND. It gives a fair idea of what we may suppose the contents of a Roman barrow, for it looks one turned inside out.

called *cannopis spuria flore amplo*; golden dock, *lapathum flore aureo*; marsh gentian; or cathalian violet, *pneumonanthe gentiano palustris, seu calathina palustris*; propwort, or wild vine, *oenanthe staphilini folio*, &c. which is a kind of the wild parsnip, and swallow-thorn, *Oleaster germanicus*, are all the plants to be found in LINCOLNSHIRE worthy notice, and the utmost one can say of these is, that they are more common to that county than to any other.

Among the persons of remarkable talents who were natives of LINCOLNSHIRE, we find that celebrated statesman Lord BURLEIGH, who had the address to become a favourite of HENRY the Eighth, who was loaded with favour by EDWARD the Sixth, who refused to turn Roman catholic at the instance of Queen MARY, and yet contrived to avoid being proscribed, and who managed to be the factotum of ELIZABETH, by alternately flattering and reprobating her inclinations. He was born at BOURN. FOX, known by his book of martyrs, was a native of BOSTON. PATRICK, a venerable prelate, was born at GAINSBOROUGH. MORE, a man of infinite merit and great self-denial, and who is supposed to have been the only man intended to be a bishop, who ever uttered *nolo episcopari* with sincerity, was born at GRANTHAM. The famous Dr. BUSBY was a LINCOLNSHIRE man. Bishop FOX, a famous statesman of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and who founded CORPUS CHRISTI college in OXFORD, was a native of ROPESLY. He is principally known by his art in introducing and afterwards supplanting WOLSEY.

SUTTON, founder of the CHARTER-HOUSE, was born at KNAITH. Sir EDMUND ANDERSON, in the parish of BROUGHTON. He was one of the commissioners that tried the unfortunate MARY, Queen of SCOTS, and he sat in judgment on Secretary DAVISON, who issued the warrant for the execution of that princess. MONSON, who like HAWKE, from a private man became an admiral, and who afterwards was knighted and placed at the head of his profession, came into the world at SOUTH CARLTON. BUCK also, a learned antiquarian, was a native of this county. Had it, however, boasted no other extraordinary abilities than those I have mentioned, many provinces might have classed in this particular before LINCOLNSHIRE; but, to fill the measure of its celebrity, and crown its reputation with proud pre-

eminence, at WOOLSTROPE, near BOURNE, Sir ISAAC NEWTON first beheld that light, the properties of which he so gloriously promulgated to illuminate his fellow-creatures.

Yours most sincerely,

Leicester-Place.

NOV. 10, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

	Barton	Boston	Burton	Deeping	Gainsborough	Grantham	Grimsby	Holbeach	Horncastle	Lincoln	Louth	Saltfleet	Sleaford	Spalding	Stamford	Tattershall	London
Tu. Asford to	41	23	50	48	52	51	25	41	16	34	10	14	36	37	55	24	139
Mond. Barton to		69	12	76	26	63	14	87	49	34	34	25	52	76	81	41	162
* † W. & S. Boston to			51	35	55	34	51	18	20	34	31	37	17	16	37	12	114
Mon. Burton to				79	18	49	26	67	52	36	46	35	34	58	85	60	159
Th. Deeping to					70	6	80	20	45	43	58	68	25	12	6	37	85
Th. Gainsborough to						41	32	54	34	18	35	41	36	59	62	42	151
* † Sat. Grantham to							65	36	35	29	57	60	15	27	21	27	104
* † Wed. Grimsby to								59	32	36	20	11	50	50	79	40	158
Th. Holbeach to									38	51	50	49	33	9	26	30	104
Sat. Horncastle to										16	12	22	20	44	46	9	134
* † Frid. Lincoln to											24	33	18	41	44	22	135
W. & S. Louth to												9	33	50	72	20	135
Sat. Saltfleet to													43	53	74	30	115
Mon. Sleaford to														24	26	21	111
Tu. Spalding to															22	36	98
* † M. & F. Stamford to																38	83
Fri. Tattershall to																	125

A table of distances in LINCOLNSHIRE. Corporation Towns, governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *; boroughs thus †; the market towns have the initials of the days placed against them.

LETTER XLIV.

NORFOLK.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I WAS so little in LINCOLNSHIRE, as will be seen by my route, on this tour, that I have in great measure had recourse to intelligence, gained upon a former occasion, to set down what faint description of it I have been able to give. I left STAMFORD on Sunday the twenty-third of June, dined at PETERBOROUGH, and arrived in the evening at WISBEACH. On the next day I reached LYNN; and, as from thence I pursued a pretty long track through NORFOLK, I shall now give some account of that large and valuable county.

NORFOLK, which evidently in its name explains its derivation, is in some sort an island, for the river Ouse separates it from CAMBRIDGESHIRE, and the rivers Waveney and Little Ouse from SUFFOLK, and the other parts are washed by the sea. It extends fifty-seven miles in length, from east to west, and thirty-five in breadth, from THETFORD in the south to WELLS in the north, and has a circumference of a hundred and forty miles. It is divided into thirty-one hundreds, it has one city, and thirty-two market towns, six-hundred and sixty parishes; it lies in the province of CANTERBURY, and diocese of NORWICH, and sends twelve members to parliament.

The principal rivers in NORFOLK are the greater and the smaller Ouse, the Yare, and the Waveney. The greater Ouse, I have already described in my account of NORTHAMPTONSHIRE; and, as the smaller Ouse rises in SUFFOLK, I shall consider it as a river properly belonging to that county, so shall I the Waveney for the same reason. The Yare rises about the middle of NORFOLK; and, passing eastward, runs by the city of NORWICH, and falls into the German sea at YARMOUTH, and thus the supply of both river and sea-fish is profuse. A gentleman at YARMOUTH told me he believed that this is the reason why the inhabitants are so cold and phlegmatic. The only mineral spring in NORFOLK, at least, that I have been able to discover, is at THETFORD.

NORFOLK is celebrated for agriculture, the particulars of which I shall now forbear to go into for the same reason that I passed by it in my account of HERTFORDSHIRE. The soil is in a most extraordinary manner fit for purposes of husbandry, being composed of almost every species that can be found in the whole island of GREAT-BRITAIN. They have arable, pasture, woodland, light sandy ground, deep clay, heaths, fens, and other soil in great variety, and the worst of them are turned to profit; but the great advantage of this county, as to soil, is a soapy marle, which pervades almost the whole of NORFOLK, and provides the farmers with a dressing at hand for every kind of ground in an impoverished state.

I shall pursue my remarks as I pursued my journey. At LYNN I staid three days. This place is called LYNN REGIS, to distinguish it from three villages in the county called WEST LYNN, SOUTH LYNN, and OLD LYNN. It is forty-two miles from NORWICH, and ninety-eight from LONDON. It is a populous and spirited town, and I suppose rich, for it has every appearance of opulence and independance. Four small rivers run through LYNN, and over them there are about fifteen bridges. It extends along the side of the Ouse, which appears to be about as wide as the Thames at LONDON-BRIDGE. The coals sent from LYNN by means of the Ouse, and collaterally by other rivers, are in quantity almost beyond belief. I have already instanced that BEDFORD is entirely supplied from thence. It was formerly the custom when there was a general exportation of

corn, to receive that article in the way of payment for coals, and they exported in consequence more than any port in ENGLAND, except HULL, in YORKSHIRE. Their foreign trade has been besides very extensive, especially to HOLLAND, NORWAY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, and the BALTIC.

I arrived at SWAFFHAM on the twenty-seventh of June. Nothing for richness and high culture could exceed the variety spread around. It looked in the style of a gentleman farmer's possession, where all that can be found for pleasure and profit in husbandry are united. Meadow, corn, luxuriant hedges, high trees, and every object calculated to inspire delight, either instantly or on reflection, engaged the senses, and by way of zest to this mental banquet, the may bushes looked beautiful and smelt delicious beyond example, for it must be recollected that the spring having been retarded, every thing came forward at once. Indeed I do not remember having ever met with more incitements to sober admiration in this way than in the road from LYNN to SWAFFHAM and DEREHAM.

SWAFFHAM is a clean neat looking place. It has more the air of a spirited village than a large town. Its situation has a peculiar cheerfulness, and you are charmed with the place more from its being sprightly and unaffected, than from any commanding object of admiration, just as men are more delighted with a desireable woman than a perfect beauty. SWAFFHAM is in the center of an extensive sporting neighbourhood, and perhaps that was the reason why I paid dearer for my horses there than at any other place in the kingdom. Indeed it is natural they should understand jockeying at SWAFFHAM, for their only manufacture is spurs.

DEREHAM, where I arrived on the twenty-eighth, ranks, except in size, for it is a small town, with BLANDFORD, TIVERTON, NORTHAMPTON, and other places, which have been burnt down and rebuilt. The hamlets belonging to DEREHAM, render it collectively a place of some consideration. It appeared to me to be busy and populous. On Saturday the twenty-ninth, I got to NORWICH, a place of high and commanding consideration, whether we look at it on the side of its extent, its wealth, its manufactures, or its commerce. This city has undergone

a variety of revolutions, and has experienced poverty and prosperity in many instances according to circumstances. It was plundered and burnt by SUENO, King of Denmark, besieged and reduced by famine in the reign of WILLIAM the Norman. After other struggles it was taken by siege by LEWIS of FRANCE, assisted by the barons, against King JOHN; and, no sooner had it begun to rear its head in the following reign, when it was visited by a dreadful pestilence, which swept away nearly sixty thousand of its inhabitants. In 1587 it was almost entirely consumed by fire. It, however, at length mastered its misfortunes, and is now a great and flourishing place.

There is a constant trade between NORWICH and YARMOUTH by means of keels, wherries, and boats, laden with coals, fish, and all sorts of merchandize. In ancient times it must, however, have been proportionally a place of much greater consequence than it is now; for, out of fifty-eight parochial churches and chapels, there are now but thirty-six, and many of those are materially gone to decay; and I have already mentioned that nearly sixty thousand persons were destroyed by the plague three centuries ago, whereas the whole number, I should suppose, now amount at most to no more than about fifty thousand; but this is a point, both in relation to NORWICH and other places, that I mean hereafter as correctly as possible to ascertain.

NORWICH is seated on the side of a hill, and therefore presents a grand and picturesque effect in many directions. The most commanding, I think, is the approach to it in the way from YARMOUTH. This city has long been famous for its woollen manufactory, which was originally established by the Flemings in the reign of EDWARD the Third, and afterwards greatly improved by the Dutch, at the time they fled from the Duke of ALVA's persecution, where ELIZABETH, who watched so vigilantly over the interests of her country, established these fugitives, who taught the inhabitants to make baize, serges, and shalloons, in which arts they are now arrived to such a degree of perfection as to imitate very nicely the famous India shawls. These manufactures, together with camblets, druggets, and carpets, give employment to thousands of the industrious poor for many miles round, whose labours contribute to the comfort and convenience of their

own country, as well as the countries abroad. I remember in 1766 the NORWICH yard-wide stuffs were a most fashionable article of finery in FRANCE, particularly among the higher orders of tradesmen, who, when they appeared with them on Sunday, trimmed with tinsel, were hardly distinguishable, except on a close examination, from persons of distinction, dressed in sattins, embroidered with gold and silver. It was very common for the English, who had at first sight mistaken a barber for a nobleman, to say that they had been deceived by NORWICH and LITTLE BRITAIN.

YARMOUTH, where I arrived on the Sunday, is variously celebrated. The Quay is said to be the handsomest and largest in EUROPE, excepted that of SEVILLE. It is, without doubt, an object of great admiration, and so very commodious, that nothing can be more common than for people to step directly from the shore into the ships, and walk from one to another as over a bridge, sometimes for a quarter of a mile together, all which accommodation must be doubly welcome to mariners, when they reflect on being safely landed from those dangerous sand banks which are called the YARMOUTH ROADS; where, coming from HULL by sea, I once counted the shattered masts and rigging of fourteen wrecks, the hulls of which were buried in the sand.

The streets of YARMOUTH are built in lines parallel with the Quay, and the communications are by means of narrow alleys, which are, I think, called runs; and, as it is impossible for common carriages to get through these, they have a number of carts to thread these passages, for the conveyance of merchandize, and very often of such persons as have occasion to go from place to place. These afford constant amusement to the sailors, whose delight is to ride about in them to the no small annoyance of passengers on foot, who are obliged sometimes very expertly to take refuge in some house, to avert perhaps serious mischief. These carts have a regular stand on the Quay like hackney coaches. It may be remembered that, some years ago, they were imitated, to an immense number, as a genteel conveyance in all directions near LONDON, by way of evading the tax that was about that time laid upon all carriages with springs.

The corporation of YARMOUTH have very extraordinary privileges. They have a court of record, where they try causes for unlimited sums, and a court of admiralty, where they can, in some cases, try, condemn, and execute, without waiting for a warrant. They are also conservators of the river Ouse, and of the Humber, the Derwent, the Wherfe, the Air, and the Dun, in YORKSHIRE. I was sagaciously told, however, and I have been since assured that the circumstance is a fact, that, as a drawback upon their consequence, they are obliged every year, as the condition of a charter granted by EDWARD the Third, for some very wise purpose no doubt, and still in force, to send to the sheriffs of NORWICH a hundred herrings, baked in twenty-four pasties, which the sheriffs are to deliver to the lord of the manor of EAST CARLETON, who gives a receipt for them, and who afterwards, by his tenure, is obliged to present them to the KING wherever he may be.

YARMOUTH, in proportion to its extent, is considered in trade and wealth superior to NORWICH. It carries on a very considerable traffic, and being on the German Occan, and the mouth of the Yare, which is navigable to NORWICH, nothing can be more conveniently situated for the purposes of exportation. It has also the whole herring fishery of the coast; forty millions of herrings are said to have been cured there in a year. In spring they fish for mackarel to almost as great a degree. The inhabitants also carry on the fishing trade to the North Sea for white fish, which they call the North Sea cod, and deal largely at NORWAY and in the Baltic for every sort of naval stores, much of which, however, they consume in their own port, both on their own vessels, which are very numerous, and others that put in to refit; for which purpose an expence is incurred of at least three thousand a year to keep the harbour clean. The colliers from NEWCASTLE to LONDON have their chief rendezvous in this harbour, and, excellent as the seamen are considered who come from NEWCASTLE, SUNDERLAND, and SHIELDS, I am told they yield, in point of skill and intelligence, to those bred at YARMOUTH.

At YARMOUTH, for the only time in my life, I saw the diversion of hawking, which, for the satisfaction of my readers, I shall take some pains to describe.

The different species of the falcon, which are of the long winged hawk kind, are many of them used for this sport; and, with the immense sums which were formerly lavished away by the English nobles to train these birds, no doubt but the sagacity of every sort that could then be found has been tried, which, in the best ornithological accounts, amount to a great number. The *falco peregrinus*, or common falcon; the sacre, called *falco sacer;* the jer falcon, or *gryfalco*; the gentil falcon, or *falco gentilis*; the mountain falcon, the haggard falcon, and indeed many others, to the number of about fifteen, and these spread into a great variety. It is very probable, however, that the different ages of the same bird may give colour to these reports, as well as the accidental alterations in their appearance, occasioned by different climates; besides, out of curiosity, it is also likely that those who have trained them may have contrived to couple them so as to produce varieties, in the manner that bird fanciers manage with pigeons and canary birds.

That hawks were formerly trained for the purpose of pitched battles in the air, as well as ærial chaces, there can be no doubt; and in this case it must certainly have been extremely curious to have seen the haggard, which is the most obstinate and persevering of all the falcon tribe, meet the jer falcon, which is the largest and the strongest. At present I believe none are trained but the gentil falcon for the air, and the goss hawk and sparrow hawk for the field, which dart upon hares and partridges in a most curious and unerring manner.

Most extraordinary pains are taken to bring these creatures to that degree of obedience necessary to hood them off, as it is called, at their prey. Their natural ferocity must be so managed as to be confined to one object; for instance, the goss hawk to a hare, the sparrow hawk to a partridge, and the falcon gentil to a crow; and at the same time they must be rendered so docile as to perch upon the falconer's fist, to come at his call, and be attracted by his lure. For these purposes they are hooded in a very curious manner, and so kept, except when they are fed, till by degrees, as they grow more familiar, for with all their courage they are a very shy bird, the hood is taken off occasionally, and the falconer possesses their confidence to such a degree that they become as obedient as spaniels.

But the time and care necessary to bring about this degree of subjection are astonishing; for if it be not done with the utmost precaution, the pains will be all thrown away. When the falcon is brought to this state, the next thing is to use it to the lure, which is a lump of feathers, with such food tied to it as the bird likes best, and thus, by throwing out the lure, even when it is after its prey, it instantly returns with a velocity almost beyond belief; but this last is very seldom attempted, the lure being only for the purpose of enticing the falcon when there might be a danger, owing to the distance, of its being lost, which, however, is very seldom the case; for, even when it is out of human sight, it is very rare but it observes the lure, and so sure as it does it comes to it.

I have said so much that the sport I shall now describe may be better understood. I had been with my family on a visit to a gentleman of that meritorious inquisiveness which denotes a busy and a curious mind. We went merely to see a collection of pictures and drawings, which were admirably well executed. Among others there were some excellently well finished birds, particularly those of the falcon tribe. While we were looking at them, he told us that one of them was a portrait, and said he would shew us the original. He went out, and presently returned with a hawk upon his fist in the manner of a falconer. It was hooded, and seemed perfectly tame. He explained the different natures of these birds, and gave us pretty nearly the intelligence relative to training them that I have related above.

At length he made us all so in love with hawking, that we longed to see this famous amusement, in which gratification he said he had no doubt but he could indulge us on the following day, for he had a cast of hawks himself, and he expected Lord Orford's falconer on the following morning with a cast and a half more, in which case he would undertake to shew us some sport. A cast consists of two. The falconer was as good as his word, and so was my friend. He called upon us in the morning, and we all repaired to a common about two miles from Yarmouth. The name of falcon is only applied to female hawks. They are more courageous and fierce than the males, which last are called the

tassel gentil.* The five hawks produced for our amusement were all males. We had, however, nothing to alledge against their courage or ferocity, for they gave some notable proofs of both, mixed with a keeness beyond what I could have conceived. They were trained to fly at nothing but crows, of which all the birds seem to be conscious; for; after the first flight, there was not a crow to be seen out of many hundreds that were spread over the common on our first entrance on it, while the cootes and curlews, and a variety of others were flying in all directions, perfectly unconcerned at the appearance of these beautiful and terrible creatures.

The first flight was thus performed: A cast of hawks at the same moment were hooded off, which means the ceremony of taking off the hood and letting them fly, each at a crow. The majesty in which they rose first attracted me; from this, I was soon, however, diverted by what appeared to me a kind of phenomenon. I had never, properly speaking, seen a crow fly in my life. Instead of the heavy clownish manner that it had ever to me seemed to have, as it were, trudged through the air, the velocity with which it flew to escape its enemy, gave it the appearance of a different bird; nor was it in cunning inferior to the hawk, though clearly frightened into a kind of last desperation.

When it was no longer possible to seek safety in flight, and the spreading pinions of its merciless adversary had borne him to so close a situation that death seemed to be inevitable, the victim instantly stopt, as if to receive the blow with fortitude; but, in the moment that the hawk seemed to mediate the stroke, the crow with a scream of despair, fell of itself like a shot, at which time it appeared so to shrink within itself as to be contracted to the size of a blackbird. Whether this was unexpected by the hawk, or whether having towered on with such resistless velocity that it was unable to stop itself, I know not, but the crow fairly escaped for the time. It became, however, very soon within the same

* I have mentioned in the HISTORY OF THE STAGE in what manner SHAKESPEAR has been mistaken by some of his commentators, because unfortunately they did not understand falconry, which remark may be extended to some of the performers. I have heard many a Juliet utter, 'Oh, for a falconer's voice to lure this tassel *gently* 'back again.'

situation, and twice more it evaded the danger in the same manner. At length, it was enabled to take shelter on the ground, in which situation, from its noble nature the hawk, disdained to touch it. Seeing this, and commending the bird for its conduct, Lord Orford's falconer threw out the lure, and the hawk was instantly on his fist. The other hawk had also lost its prey, and my friend, who performed the part of its falconer, lured it back again from an immense distance.

The crows having now completely disappeared, a second cast of hawks were hooded off in search of prey. This was to me a very beautiful sight. The grandeur and majesty with which they traversed the air, which they seemed to quarter as a pointer does a field, delighted me exceedingly. The circles in which they appeared to maintain an intelligence with each other encreased, and they were frequently out of sight, at least of my sight, even with the assistance of a glass. At last they were to me totally lost, and I was very anxious and very importunate with the falconer to lure them back again, but he said he knew his time, which proved to be true; for, though I had totally given them up, he had scarcely thrown out his lure, when in a space of time incredibly short, they returned to it.

The third flight was perfectly different from any thing we had seen, and ended tragically for the poor crow. It was performed by one of those hawks that had been first hooded off, and that which had not been let fly at all. We had no expectation that it would happen, or that we should have any more sport, for the crows had seemed entirely to have disappeared. It was the fate of a poor straggler, however, to make his appearance, and away went the hawks after it. The crow would probably have escaped had there been only one hawk, for with great boldness, it practised the same means of evasion as I had seen in the first flight; but one of the hawks, maintaining a situation under the crow, as fast as it avoided the uppermost, it was, with all the difficulty in the world, the gripe of the lurcher underneath could be parried. The crow was therefore obliged to manœuvre in all directions, which was done certainly in a very masterly style for a considerable time, all the while the crow escaping their blows by the power of contracting its flight into a narrower circle than that of its enemies; but the odds were

so immense, that the crow from the impossibility of touching the ground, where it would have been in safety, at last come in contact with his enemy below; at which moment the hawk gave it a blow with his beak upon the wing, and it was instantly disabled. Seeing this, the other hawk pounced upon it like lightning, and, seizing the poor devoted bird in his talons, bore it to the earth.

The crow was killed by the hawk in the action of seizing him, which the falconer informed me was always the case, for the hawk, as it seizes the body with one claw, breaks the neck with the other. The hawks having come to the falconer, the prey was as quietly delivered up to him as a hare is by a hound to the huntsmen, and the conquerors waited with great patience for their reward, while, with very grave ceremony, their feeder cut the crow into two equal parts, that thus it might be fairly divided between them.

THETFORD stands in a pleasant country, at the distance of eighty miles from LONDON. This town is said to have been the metropolis of the King of the EAST ANGLES. It is called THETFORD from its situation on a river called the Thet. It has undergone many revolutions, and has been a place of such consequence, as at different times to have been a suffragan see to NORWICH, to have had eight monasteries, to have had a mint, to have been very honourably incorporated, and to have been the hunting seat of several kings, but particularly of JAMES the First, who had a palace there, which is still called the King's house. THETFORD now, however, is by no means a place of very great consequence, which may be easily credited when it is considered that it had formerly twenty churches, and has now but three. THETFORD being cut by the river Ouse, a small part of it stands in SUFFOLK.

The list of plants which are said to belong to NORFOLK is very numerous, and has been made public by the consent of the Botanic Society of NORWICH. The reader will see that I have already given an account of many of them, which are claimed as the property of other counties. I shall, however, transcribe the list, at least its essence, with some remarks.

Upright Speedwell, with divided leaves, *Veronica Triphilos,* found at ROUGHTON. Of the Veronicas, MILLER reckons sixteen and LINNEUS thirty-five species. Many of them are said to have medical virtues, particularly that sort called Brooklime. The lesser hairy grass leaved plantain, *Plantago Coronopus,* found near YARMOUTH. Of this sort of plantain LINNEUS enumerates twenty-one varieties; some of them have been used in medicine, and there is an extract of plantain which is said to possess some virtue. The common people apply it to wounds. It is, however, in general a very troublesome weed. Round rooted bastard cyperus, *Scirpus Maritimus.* This is evidently one of the cyperus grasses, and it possesses in some degree the virtues of the Indian cyperus, the roots of which are known to be of use in niphritic disorders, in cholics, and in the first stages of the dropsy.

Cock's-foot panic grass, *Panicum Sanguinale.* MILLER enumerates five, and LINNEUS thirty species of this plant. I know nothing of its medical uses. Small leaved hair grass, *Aira Setacea,* a plant not worth noticing, and by no means peculiar to NORFOLK. Hoary Mullein I have already described. The catalogue says it is to be found almost every where about NORWICH; to which might be added, almost every where else. Caraway, *Carui,* or *Carum,* well known for its seeds, grows in NORFOLK, and in many other counties. Culathian Violet, *Gentiana Palustris Augustifolia,* is another plant common to other places as well as NORFOLK. So is shrubby stone crop, which I have already described. Smooth sea heath, one of the almost innumerable tribe of Ericas, is to be found on Clay Beach. Common Star of Bethlehem is well known all over the kingdom. LINNEUS makes out twelve, and MILLER thirteen varieties of this plant. This is the *Ornithogalum Vulgare,* and seems to vary from the garden, exactly as what are commonly called bluebells vary from hyacinths.

Sweet smelling flag, *Acorus Calumus,* is found in the Yare. This plant, as well as other flags, is an Iris, the term Acorus signifying only its root. It has medical virtues, and is frequently confounded by modern apothecaries with the *Calamus Aromaticus.* It is spicy and bitter, and is used in cephalic and stomachic compositions. Spanish catchfly, *Lychinis viscosa flore muscosa.* This is one species, out of a numerous tribe, of the Campion. The classical name shews why it is called

catchfly. The flowers are sweet, and the leaves viscous. Mountain stone-drop we have gone over before. Purple cow wheat, *Melampyrum purpurascente coma*, is by no means peculiar to NORFOLK. Indeed, it ought to be cultivated every where. This species, which has purple tops, is a delicious food for cattle, particularly for fattening oxen and cows. The seeds should be sown in the autumn, soon after they are ripe, otherwise they seldom grow the first year. In WEST FRIEZLAND and FLANDERS it grows plentifully among the corn.

Narrow leaved wild cresses is a dittander, which we have gone over already, from the land cress to the cochleria. Wild rocket, *Eruca Sylvestris*. I look upon this species of rocket to be a reseda, of which there are a prodigious number of varieties from mignionet to dyers weed, or weld; the first is celebrated for diffusing delicate fragrance, and the other for dying a beautiful yellow. Great tower mustard, *Turritis*, is a species, or rather variety, of that plant so well known for its hot and pungent qualities. A great deal is said of the superior strength of this sort, which grows upon old walls; but I apprehend that, if it has any such superiority, it must be partly owing to the soundness of the seed which enables it to arrive to such perfection with such shallow hold, and partly to the materials that compose the wall, which are of an ardent nature. This is a remark common to vegetation. The judges of wine in FRANCE affect to know, and they may do so to some degree, the nature of the soil on which the vine grew by flavour of the wine.

Yellow reddish, *Medica Sylvestris*. This, the lucerne, the medicago, or snail trefoil, seem to be very nearly related. Lucerne, as the reader knows, is what the farmers call Burgundy hay, which the ancients were so fond of cultivating under the name of Medica, so called because it came immediately from MEDIA. Creeping rest harrow. *Ononis Repens*. This is a troublesome weed. It is, however, one of the five opening roots, and has had some celebrity as a medicine. Field Southernwood, *Artemesia Campestris*. This classical title from LINNEUS places southernwood among the mugworts, of which he names twenty-two sorts, the virtues of some of which have been highly extolled, and particularly in the cure of the sciatica. MILLER, however, confines southernwood to the Abrotanum

class, and admits it only to be a species between wormwood and lavender cotton. Roman nettle is very common, and marsh fleabane and sea orach have been already described.

The society of botanists at NORWICH have also made known a very large string of other plants; but I can scarcely find any of them peculiar to that county. The Veronicas, the Milfoils, the Sedums, the Darnels, the Alkanets, the Mulleins, and the Lycopodiums grow wild in many parts of the kingdom. I shall, therefore, though I may hereafter refer to this list for confirmation, resist at present any particular examination into it, and finish my account of NORFOLK, by a short history of its celebrated characters.

MATTHEW PARKER, the second protestant Archbishop of CANTERBURY, was born at NORWICH. He was successively chaplain to ANNE of BOLEYN, HENRY the Eighth, and EDWARD the Sixth, and received considerable preferments. It was by his interest, in great measure, that the great bible, commonly called the Bishops bible, came to be printed.

JOHN KAYE, an eminent physician, was also born at NORWICH. COSIN, Bishop of DURHAM, memorable for his great piety and charity; and Dr. CLARKE, a learned divine, the translator of NEWTON'S Optics into Latin, and the publisher of that Latin version of HOMER, which POPE has been supposed by some of his kind friends, to have resorted to in the rendering of the Iliad into English, were both natives of NORWICH.

BACONTHORP, surnamed the resolute doctor, a strange and obstinate man of great learning. Sir RICHARD GRESHAM, father of him who founded GRESHAM-COLLEGE. Sir JOHN, his brother, also an eminent merchant. AYLMER, bishop of LONDON, celebrated for his answer to the famous JOHN KNOX. SPELMAN, the great antiquary, who wrote many curious things, and in particular his Glossary. BRADY, a historian and physician, still known, and that's all, by his History of ENGLAND. PEARSON, bishop of CHESTER, known by his exposition of the creed, and his vindication of St. IGNATIUS'S epistles. SHADWELL, DRYDEN'S rival, to the disgrace of

national taste and judgement, whose life may be found in the *History of the Stage.* HERRING, archbishop of CANTERBURY, who was a most active pastor and patriot, and who wrote and preached excellent sermons; and L'ESTRANGE, whose fortune partook of his name, as every body knows, were all natives of NORFOLK.

Sir THOMAS GRESHAM, founder of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, before the fire of LONDON, was born at GRESHAM, near CROMER. Sir FRANCIS WALSINGHAM, the great statesman at the time of ELIZTBETH, was a native of WALSINGHAM. Sir CLEMENT PASTON was descended from an honorable family in this county. He was remarkable for his gallant behaviour in HENRY the Eighth's wars, and particularly in a sea-fight where he took prisoner the French admiral Monsieur BLANCARD. Sir EDWARD COKE, the great law luminary, who was early in life called to fill so many honorable situations, whose conduct as a judge however, in spight of the soundness of his legal knowledge savoured rather too much of JEFFERIES; witness his calling RALEIGH before conviction, traitor, monster, viper and spider of hell, whose indiscreet warmth concerning the murderers of OVERBURY, and his mistaken zeal relative to the king's authority in ecclesiastical affairs, threw him into the TOWER, and plunged him in more distress than he had bargained for; who was always at variance with the great Sir FRANCIS BACON, infinitely his superior in all the branches of polite literature, whatever he might have been in mere legal knowledge; who, in short, got into so many scrapes with such facility, and out of them with so much address, that King JAMES said of him, whatever way he were thrown he would fall upon his legs like a cat, was born at MILEHAM. I shall finish this account by saying that Sir CLOUDESLEY SHOVEL, who will be deservedly celebrated till the battle of LA HOGUE and many other gallant exploits are expunged from the page of history, was born near CLAY, in NORFOLK, shipwrecked at the SCILLY ISLANDS, and buried in WESTMINSTER-ABBEY.

My next letter will bring me to LEICESTER-PLACE, and to the end of the First Volume.

Yours ever and most sincerely,

Leicester-Place.

C. DIBDIN.

Nov. 10, 1801.

NORFOLK.

	Castle Rising	Cromar	Dereham	Downham	Fakenham	Foulsham	Lynn Regis	Norwich	Swaffham	Thetford	Walsingham	Werton	Windham	Yarmouth	London
Sat. Buckenham to	70	39	31	45	36	31	47	15	43	20	42	20	14	38	57
Castle Rising to		52	33	17	27	32	6	48	20	34	32	31	45	78	108
Cromar to			22	48	26	24	49	22	38	52	20	30	30	34	131
Frid. Dereham to				26	26	9	27	16	12	28	32	10	13	39	99
Sat. Downham to					26	35	12	42	14	25	32	26	39	65	81
Th. Fakenham to						9	26	37	16	34	6	40	39	60	107
Foulsham to							29	25	21	37	6	19	22	48	109
Tu. & Sat. Lynn Regis to								43	15	29	31	27	40	66	103
* † W. & F. Norwich to									28	29	27	22	9	23	110
Swaffham to										17	23	12	25	56	92
* † Sat. Thetford to											39	12	20	58	82
Th. Walsingham to												46	39	55	112
Wed. Warton to													13	35	94
Windham to														32	100
Sat. Yarmouth to															124

A table of distances in NORFOLK. Corporation Towns, governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *; boroughs thus †; the market towns have the initials of the days placed against them.

LETTER XLV.

SUFFOLK.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

BEING now within eight pages of concluding my first volume, and five days of my arrival at LEICESTER-PLACE, I shall briefly mention some circumstances relative to SUFFOLK, and afterwards take a temporary leave of my readers, with a few remarks by way of rounding this picture of men and manners as far as it has gone.

SUFFOLK, which means SOUTH-FOLK, exactly as NORFOLK means NORTH-FOLK, is surely a most charming county. It is bounded on the east by the German Ocean, on the north by NORFOLK, from which it is separated by the little Ouse and the Waveney, on the west by CAMBRIDGESHIRE, and on the south by ESSEX, from which it is divided by the Stour. It extends fifty-two miles from east to west, the averaged medium from north to south is about twenty-eight miles, and it is about a hundred and ninety-six miles in circumference. It is in general, divided into two parts, the first called the franchise, or liberty of ST. EDMUND, which contains the western part of the county; the second called the Geldable land, containing the eastern part. Each of these furnishes a distinct grand jury at the county assizes.

In the Franchises, the issues and forfeitures are paid to the lords of the liberties, and in the Geldable part they are paid to the king. There are also two other divisions of the county, into high SUFFOLK and low SUFFOLK, and it is subdivided into twenty-two hundreds. It is seated in the province of CANTERBURY, and diocese of NORWICH; it contains twenty-nine market towns, five-hundred and seventy-five parishes, and sends sixteen members to parliament.

Water is very plentiful all over the county, for there are not only rivers in almost every part, but also a great number of springs and rivulets. The principal rivers are the Stour, the lesser Ouse, the Waveney, the Deben, the Orwell, the Ald, and the Bligh. The Stour runs on the southern boundary of the county, and falls into Orwell-Haven to the north of HARWICH. The little Ouse rises near BLOW-NORTON, on the northern edge of the county, and running by THETFORD, BRANDON, and other places, falls into the great Ouse. The Waveney rises also near BLOW-NORTON, not far from the little Ouse; but it takes a contrary direction, passing by DISS, HARLESTON and BEECLES, and at length falls into the Yare near YARMOUTH.

The Deben rises near MENDLESHAM, runs south-east, passes by DEBENHAM, and WOODBRIDGE, eleven miles from which town it falls into the sea. The Orwell rises also near MENDLESHAM; and running south-east, passes by IPSWICH, to which place it is navigable, and there it can receive ships of considerable burthen. About ten miles from IPSWICH it discharges itself into the German Ocean, together with the Stour, both rivers forming one large mouth. The Ald rises near FRAMLINGTON, and falls into the sea also near IPSWICH. The Blith has its source near LAXFIELD, from whence it runs east-north-east to HALESWORTH; and, passing from thence almost directty east to SOUTHWOLD, it falls into the sea.

They have no coal pits in SUFFOLK, but their near situation to the sea, and the great facility with which they obtain every kind of supply by the navigable rivers, obviate this, and every possible similar inconvenience. The soil of this county is of course different in different parts. It may with propriety be divided into three sorts. The sand-land, the wood-laud, and the fielding. The sand-land

part is a tract which reaches from the river ORWELL, by the sea coast to YARMOUTH, and is pretty nearly seperated from the woodland by the great road leading from IPSWICH to YARMOUTH. This part may be divided into marsh, arable and heath lands which are variously cultivated and greatly productive both for the fodder of cattle and the produce of grain. The arable part is manured by what is called crag, which consists of an infinite number of bivalve and turbinated shells and renders the land wonderfully fertile.

The woodland part extends from the north east corner of the hundred of BLYTHING to the south east corner of the county at HAVERHILL. The soil is very rich and fruitful and here they make the best butter and the most indifferent cheese in the kingdom. This does not however, generally, obtain, for those farms where they make but small quantities of butter excel in cheese, which is considered equal to that made at STILTON. The fielding part consists chiefly of sheep-walks, which in richness may vie with any thing in LEICESTERSHIRE. As a proof of the general capability for cultivation in this county, the farmers seldom use more than two horses to a plough and yet are able to work at least an acre in a day.

I left YARMOUTH on the fifth of July and arrived at BECCLES; the next day I slept at HALESWORTH; I dined on the eight at IPSWICH and reached SUDBURY in the evening; from whence I departed on the tenth and drank tea in LEICESTER PLACE. Thus I have avoided any material notice of these several places as I shall hereafter have a more convenient opportunity and my time at present will be better employed in going into some observations which I conceive to be necessary at this period of the work.

I have reconsidered that portion of the work already printed and am perfectly contented with the result. As to the narrative it would have been impossible to have been more circumstantial without committing myself to a dry historical detail to which neither my title binds nor my inclination prompts me. I have therefore endeavoured to make up in remarks, which are in point, for facts, which are vague and uncertain, and sometimes in blending both, I rather think I have accomplished my design, and gained in activity that ground which some of my neighbours have lost by dronishness and torpidity.

The general letters have been considered, though mine are not timid friends, as bold and provoking; to which I answer that a probed wound will smart, and that the smarting proves the wound rankles. The bearing of the remark therefore is that abuses exist, and nothing can be more clear than my duty on this subject, which is either to expose those abuses or it is nothing; and the very regret I feel at undertaking the task binds me to discharge it with fidelity. It follows therefore that I should most sincerely rejoice to see the roads throughout the kingdom safe and secure, that there were neither deputies, or deputies of deputies, to whom trusts are confided, to the disgrace of the laws, and the danger of the subject. I should be happy to prove that landlords of inns sell wholesome viands and liquors, make reasonable charges, and literally and conscientiously comply, which is their duty, with the conditions of their licence, to the letter.

Nothing could have given me more real satisfaction than to have shewn that circulating libraries disseminate no doctrines or intelligenc but such as serve to teach and confirm the principles of useful knowledge, to explain agreeable and ingenious truths, to recommend and enforce the social duties, to widen the path that leads to reason, to expand the mind and to amend the heart. Nor should I have been less happy if I could have congratulated the world on the honesty, sobriety, and fidelity of servants, and that these links in the chain of society were not bent, crooked, and corroded.

No man will use me so hardly as to believe for a moment, that I have the smallest pleasure in being obliged to hint, for more would be indecent, that at watering-places there are not so many wonderful cures performed as the world is taught to believe, that those harmless and happy regions are now and then, I do not pretend to say often, visited by sharpers and impostors; that it has really happened once, if not twice, that young ladies have sent their mothers home miserable, and young gentlemen have sweat their fathers purses pretty handsomely; and that other instances of dissipation and profligacy have been actually suspected if not practised; nor will any one credit that I could be such an enemy to order and fair dealing, as not to combat the possibility of a scarcity while

plenty was staring me in the face,* while it was out of my power to shut my eyes and ears to what every man saw and heard, and while fact corroborated fact, for an immense circuit, throughout which I must have abetted hypocrisy and falsehood, and wilfully deceived the public, had I held any other opinion, or broached any other doctrine than I did.

Neither shall I be accused of any sinister motive in the representation I have given of the condition of the poor, especially as the truth of my arguments seems to be felt and acknowledged by the legislative measures which are taking in their favour, and which, if they should have the good effect of securing them their due, entire and unsifted, will ensure them more comfort in proportion to their wants than falls to the lot of one twentieth of those who, get it how they can, are obliged to contribute to their support; and, lastly, as to boarding-schools,

* Since I wrote my letter on the subject of scarcity, I understand from men in high authority, that the farmers defend themselves, and what is more suspicious, are defended by others, under the idea that though the harvest was very abundant, the opportunity of putting in the seed, in consequence of the warmth and openness of the weather in October and the early part of November, so much occupied their time that they had not found it possible to thrash out the wheat; and, as the price of wheat governs the price of every thing else, the public must wait with patience for the thrashing time to be over, that all the necessaries of life may find their level. This is a sort of complaisance which I really cannot understand, and therefore, though in my letter upon agriculture I shall hereafter examine more closely into this, I shall shortly speak of it now. In the first place, upon the face of this statement they make an unqualified assertion, that they have a large stock on hand, and thus virtually pledge themselves to a considerable reduction in the price after the sowing season. This fallacy they ought to have seen would be very short-lived. Even now at this moment its operation is past and its duplicity detected; for, being come to the time when its truth ought to have been established, we have bread dearer than when they had recourse to that contemptible subterfuge, which time has now proved to have been an insidious fraud. There is another thing. If the harvest was so very abundant, and the seed time so uncommonly favourable, the very contemplation of a fruitful harvest is a prospective advantage worthily to be cherished, and this ought to operate generally as a reason why there is so danger in venturing to dispense the stock in hand; which, without any necessity for thrashing, is, and every man who chooses to think must know it, considerable. The stock in the Isle of WIGHT was enough to serve for three years before the harvest began. But after all why should wheat govern the price of every thing else? This is surely a very dangerous doctrine, and seems besides as if it were broached to set common-sense at defiance; for, if this is to be the case, and wheat, though it has no power over the growth of hay, the produce of the garden, or any other vehicle, through which we receive the common necessaries of life, is pleaded as a sufficient excuse for the high price of meat, poultry, vegetables, butter and eggs, and a long appertaining catalogue, it may by and by virtually extend to the luxuries, in which case a taylor may connive at a rise of thread, in order, not only to plead precedent for an advance on broad-cloth, but stay-tape and buckram, and all the et ceteras.

if I had not a sincere and tender respect for the personal endowments and excellent understandings of my fair countrywomen, of whom it is but little to say that for beauty and virtue the world cannot find a parallel, and therefore out of that respect I am sorry to deplore and compelled to expose the combination of artful as well as adventitious circumstances through which such loveliness may be corrupted and such purity sullied; if these motives did not impel me to what I conceive to be a worthy discharge of a primary duty, I should certainly never have ventured any strictures on so delicate, not to say ticklish a subject.

If any apprehension be entertained that I have drawn a nest of hornets about my ears, let it be recollected they are hornets, and that it is a bold duty to exterminate them, that so the bees of society may prosecute their labours in peace and without apprehension of depredation. How far it may be a positive duty, for in manners as in nature a mixture of the nutritious and the noxious are inevitable, or in which way it may be becoming to volunteer myself in the performance of it, for such conduct is unthankful and unpopular, may be objects of consideration.

I shall answer that as to the mixture of good and evil in nature, taking it either religiously or mythologically, it is our duty to combat one that the other may prevail; and, though I do not exactly think with HOBBS that a man has a right to take hold of the devil's cloven foot to help himself out of a scrape, or in more sacred words, to do evil that good may come of it, or as SHAKESPEAR most beautifully expresses it, to do a great right do a little wrong; yet it certainly is a positive duty to check the evil and shew its deformity as much as possible in order to keep it subordinate and in its place and as a foil to set off the beauty and brilliancy of goodness. The Irish sailor, I think, settled this business very quietly. He complained that his landlady had brought him his dinner in a very dirty condition. Never mind it, said the good woman, you must eat a peck of dirt before you die. Arrah fait and troth, said he, that may be, but the devil a reason do I see that I should eat a bushel at a time.

As to my taking the matter up and my apprehensions of the consequences, a few words will be very sufficient for a reply. We know very well that what is

every body's business is nobody's business; but shall we leave weeds to overrun the garden of life, or were it not better for the sake of public convenience that every man should pluck up his proportion that thus the beauties and benefits, arising from the restoratiou of the nurture which the weeds had stollen from the wholesome plants, might he restored to them? But, it will be rejoined that every man will not do this; and, if people chuse that weeds should accumulate in their gardens and dirt choke up their doors, what have I to do with it? A great deal. I am a member of that society for which every man ought to live as well as for himself; and as far as my portion of good fellowship goes, I have a right to be accommodated with those advantages to which by this obligation I am entitled, and I shall certainly, though no more than a Hercules in inclination, persevere in my labours and lend my pigmy strength to cleanse this augean stable, even though I were obliged like the Lord Mayor of London to be mulct in the first five shillings by way of example.

As to any meditated revenge, let it come and welcome; that is to say let it be open, and not insidious, not whispered in hints and insinuations, but declared and fearless; and taken with the same plainness and honesty as the accusation has been preferred; but above all things I would advise, lest the defence should warrant the condemnation, to let the affront be quietly pocketted, and the cap consciously worn, or else let it come in the shape of refutation; and for the best of all reasons: because nothing short of this will operate as conviction on the minds and opinions of the candid and the sensible, to whose censure alone will I ever consent to submit.

Upon this ground I invite to the combat and dare to the proof all those who think proper in this cause to enter the lists with me, and assure them that if it should appear in the opinion of the above judges that I have either in fact or intention been guilty of any thing injurious to the public, to public characters, or to that morality which it is their peculiar duty and mine to establish and inculcate, I would most submissively implore that pardon, to which being so convicted, no contrition, however sincere, without humble concession on my part, and generous condescension on theirs could ever entitle me. Indeed had I for a

single moment suffered myself to be warped from that pure manly honour that ought to be the boast of every member of society, and in particular of every writer, I should have incurred all this and more.

This however they cannot prove. I shall therefore persevere in my duty. In the prosecution of which, though I may from an impossibility of arriving at the extent of the evil, sometimes extenuate, I shall certainly in no one instance set down aught in malice.

I am very truly

Leicester-Place, Yours,

Dec. 3, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

End of the First Volume.